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Iran, UAE Meet To Resolve 'Misunderstanding'

LD1911174495 Tehran IRNA in English
1714 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 19, IRNA — Talks between Iran and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) opened in Doha, Qatar on Sunday [19 November] in a bid to resolve the misunderstanding between the two countries on the administration of Abu Musa Island.

Iranian delegation led by director-general of the Persian Gulf department of Foreign Ministry, Hoseyn Sadeqi, and the Emirate's delegation led by the UAE foreign ministry official in charge of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, Khalifa Shahin al-Merri, held preliminary talks on Saturday [18 November].

The new round of talks is focused on a message of the UAE Head of State Shaykh Zayed Al Nahayyan to President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani of Iran in 1992.

In the said message Shaykh Zayed voiced his country's readiness to hold talks with Iran on Abu Musa.

According to the informed sources on Doha talks, the new round of talks is expected to fix a timetable for the forthcoming meeting of the UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayed Al Nahayyan, and Iranian Foreign Minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati due to be held in Doha.

Iranian and the Emirate's delegations appreciated Qatar's efforts in facilitating the talks and being the host to the meeting with Qatari Minister of Foreign Affairs, Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabr Al Thani, on Saturday.

In the last round of talks over three years ago, the two countries failed to reach a settlement in Abu Dhabi.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has constantly voiced its readiness to resolve misunderstanding with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) regarding bilateral interest and help consolidate security and stability in the Persian Gulf region in light of the good neighbourly relations and the principle of non-interference in each other's affairs.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Urges Israel To Shun Procrastination

NC1611190195 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1725 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 Nov (MENA)—The Arab League has again urged Israel to avoid the stalling and procrastination the late Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's government pursued. In a statement today, Ambassador 'Adnan 'Imran, Arab League assistant secretary general for political and international affairs, said that Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres is required to respect the international legitimacy of the resolution as he forms his new government. He said that the policy of procrastination that Rabin pursued created a tense and serious atmosphere, noting in this respect the false claims that Jerusalem is the eternal capital of Israel. He noted that the new government in Israel should make use of the mortal mistakes that the Labor Party government made. He stressed that this government should quickly come out with stances, through the United States which sponsors the peace process, and assert Israel's prompt and serious preparedness to enter talks based on the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 7 Nov

NC1711185795

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 7 November edition of the Arabic language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

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RABIN'S MURDER SAID DIVINE REVENGE

This issue of AL-SHA'B devotes much space to reports and comments on Yitzhaq Rabin's assassination in Jerusalem on 4 November, with some writers describing the murder of the Israeli prime minister as "God's revenge" for the assassination in Malta 10 days earlier of Islamic Jihad Leader Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, allegedly at the hands of the Israeli intelligence service, Mosad.

—An 800-word report by Muhammad Jamal 'Arafah on pages 1 and 8 criticizes the Arab leaders who attended Rabin's funeral. "Although terrorist Rabin — former Israeli prime minister — participated in all massacres against Arabs and Muslims, from Dayr Yasin and Kafr Qasim [in 1948] to the massacres of Egyptian prisoners of war in 1956 and 1967 when he was the Army chief of staff, and although he was responsible for expelling and dispersing tens of thousands of Palestinian, Egyptian, and Lebanese families, a large number of Arab rulers rushed to declare their deep sadness at his assassination, to mourn him, and to attend his funeral in Jerusalem, a city that has become — according to official U.S. Congress recognition — the unified capital of the Jewish state!" The reporter notes that President Mubarak and King Husayn of Jordan made their first visits to Jerusalem to attend the funeral.

The reporter says that in contradiction with this, "citizens in all Arab and Islamic countries expressed joy when they heard the news of the assassination of this terrorist, whose hands were stained with the blood of thousands of martyrs." He notes that people in Syria, Lebanon, and Iran rejoiced over the killing, and that 20,000 students demonstrated in Cairo university to express joy.

—Another 700-word report by Yusuf Sa'd on pages 1 and 8 discusses the extremist Jewish groups that "rushed" to claim responsibility for the assassination. These various group, the writer says, accuse Rabin of violating the Torah and relinquishing the "promised land" of Israel. But the reporter comments: "The fact is that Rabin did not want peace. That was his sin. He held the stick from the middle to appeal to people at home and abroad in a way that allows his government to continue in power." The writer adds about Rabin: "When he reluctantly shook 'Arafat's hand, he looked the other way to announce that Jerusalem is the eternal capital of the alleged state (Israel)." And while asking 'Arafat to convince the Islamic Jihad to stop its operations against Israel, the writer adds, Rabin ordered the killing of Islamic Jihad Leader Fathi al-Shaqaqi.

—A 2,500 report by Mahmud Bakri on page 3 discusses Rabin's "bloody, terrorist" past and mentions "some" of his "crimes." The writer claims that before his assassination, Rabin planned to launch a war against Syria to force it to accept the terms of "capitulation," planned to control the region and force the Arabs to accept Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, and directly supervised the plan to assassinate Islamic Jihad Leader Fathi al-Shaqaqi. The writer discusses this last point in detail and cites Israeli reports as saying that the assassination of Fathi al-Shaqaqi followed an "important meeting between Yitzhaq Rabin and the director of the CIA in Tel Aviv on 19 October." It is likely that the two agreed in the meeting to implement the al-Shaqaqi assassination plan, the writer says, "especially since the CIA prepared a plan over a month ago to assassinate Iran's most prominent aides in the region." Bakri adds that the U.S. plan seeks to contain Iran's security threat, especially as posed by Iran's contacts with the influential religious movements in the region, such as the Islamic Jihad.

In a 400-word article on page 3, Dr. Rif'at Sayyid Ahmad sees in Rabin's killing a "heavenly justice" after the killing of Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi by "two terrorist killers, representatives of Yitzhaq Rabin, in Malta." He says "heaven's revenge was prompt, painful to Rabin himself and to anyone who was involved in or happy with the assassination of al-Shaqaqi while unarmed and exiled from his homeland, his small children, and his people." He adds: "It is heaven's wisdom that Rabin die in shame and ignominy for the terrorism and massacres he perpetrated against God's beloved Arabs and Muslims, the latest of whom was martyr Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi."

—In a 300-word article on page 9, Dr. 'Asim Muhammad Sharif says the Egyptians "cannot be sympathetic toward terrorist Yitzhaq Rabin" whose hands, the writer says, are stained with Arab blood in Palestine, Lebanon, Golan, and Sinai. Criticizing the government's position on the assassination, the writer says: "Let the [Egyptian] government offer its condolences to whomever it wants, and let its writers prepare for it highly poetic and affectionate elegies, but we, as a people, will never be hypocrites." The writer says the killer of Rabin is a "natural product" of a generation taught by its leaders to hate and kill Arabs "even without reason."

—In an approximately 1,000-word article on pages 1 and 8, Labor Party Leader Ibrahim Shukri views Rabin's assassination as "only a natural development" in a society "built on killing, terrorism, and capturing others' territory by force." He says that Israeli "massacres" against groups and individuals never ceased since the establishment of the "fabricated" state of Israel in 1948. He suggests that assassination is "a genuine method in Zionist political thought," and says Rabin's assassin "is a natural outgrowth and correct product of what underlies the criminal Israeli mentality." Shukri then maintains that "martyrdom-seeking operations" by militant Palestinians cannot be considered acts of terrorism, but legitimate resistance against occupation. On the other hand, operations carried out by the Israeli

Army and settlers against Palestinians are "crimes in the fullest sense of the word".

Shukri then wonders why the Arabs failed to suspend their negotiations with Israel to see how things will develop after Rabin's assassination. He notes that while Israel announced that it will suspend the redeployment of its forces in the West Bank, the Arabs continue their "rush" toward Israel. Shukri finally refers to Rabin's recent statement "in an Arab capital" that Jerusalem will remain Israel's eternal capital. He asks: "Can anyone, then, cry for Rabin?"

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS CONDEMN MILITARY TRIALS, URGE FREEDOMS

In an approximately 1,500-word article, 'Abd-al-Hayy Muhammad and Tariq 'Abd-al-Hamid report on "the Day of Freedom for University Students." They say 20,000 students from all Egyptian universities demonstrated at Cairo University "to condemn the despotism of the government and its flagrant aggression against freedoms." The students reportedly held copies of the Koran and raised banners calling for the resignation of the government. Strict security measures were imposed around the university and a helicopter was seen taking pictures of the demonstration. At the end of the demonstration, reporters say, "thousands of students held a mammoth conference calling on President Mubarak to establish a sound democratic life and abolish all infamous laws, especially the emergency, terrorism, professional associations, and press laws." The students also stressed the need to stop military trials of Muslim Brotherhood leaders and to release all political prisoners. The students "also expressed happiness for the assassination of the prime minister of the Zionist enemy." The reporters then cite speeches by representatives of the various Egyptian universities demanding freedoms and condemning military trials.

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD DEFENDANTS, LAWYERS, OTHERS CONDEMN TRIAL

In a 700-word report on pages 1 and 8, Khalid Yunus says the military court will issue its verdict on the first group of Muslim Brotherhood leaders on Monday, 13 November. The reporter cites a news conference by the defense team in which it explained why it withdrew from the case. The defense said that the court refused to suspend the trial until an administrative court issued its ruling on a lawsuit contesting the trial of the defendants by a military court. The defense also said the court rejected several objective demands, such as allowing the defense to cross examine the only prosecution witness. The defense maintained in the press conference that "the only charge appearing in the case documents is that the defendants were coordinating among themselves to contest the upcoming People's Assembly elections." Also according to the defense, "claims of establishing an illegal organization are not legally substantiated, as the Higher Administrative Court is still examining a lawsuit contesting these claims".

The reporter also cites a statement by the coordination committee of the professional associations expressing "deep regret and astonishment for the continued detention of popular, trade union, and Islamic leaders by the ruling regime and referring them to military trials." The statement accuses the government of working to alienate "all honorable nationalist forces" so as to facilitate the conclusion of "suspicious" deals with Israel. The statement reportedly says that the regime "revealed its clear hostility toward great Islam, and lost its credibility when it attacked the Islamic movement."

—The paper publishes on page 8 the 700-word "text" of a statement issued by Dr. Muhammad al-Sayyid Habib, one of the Muslim Brotherhood leaders now being tried by the military court, on behalf of all his fellow defendants. The statement stresses that the defendants are being tried for political reasons "to distance us from the current legislative elections." It says the trial "is a message to the Egyptian people aimed at intimidating and terrorizing them" and "a government message supporting the logic of violence, which we rejected and continue to reject." The statement also says that "any sentences issued by the court will not prevent us from performing our duty toward our nation and society as preachers for a message by wise and good counselling and through legal and constitutional means." The statement notes that "all political trends in Egypt" opposed the trial, "but regrettably, the president of the republic ignored all this." Noting that the court rejected the defense' demands, the statement says: "It became clear that the court does not want to enable the defense to shoulder its mission and responsibility of defending us, which forced the defense team to take its historic position of withdrawing from the case." The statement also maintains: "We are not in a state of antagonism with the president of the republic, but by referring our case to the military judiciary, and through his statements to newspapers concerning the case, his excellency placed himself in the position of the adversary and judge against sincere Egyptian citizens working for the good of Egypt." The statement urges the judges to reject this "fabricated" case and reminds them that they will stand before God on the day of judgment.

—The paper publishes in its back page, page 12, the names of about 150 new signatories to a statement condemning the referral of Muslim Brotherhood leaders to the military court. The new group includes local council members, trade unionists, and university professors.

—The paper publishes a 250-word letter by three Turkish lawyers attending the military trial of the Muslim Brotherhood leaders in which they deny a report published by the government-owned newspaper AL-AHRAM on 24 October citing them as saying the trial is going fine and that no pressure is involved. The Turkish lawyers say in their letter that the AL-AHRAM correspondent only took a picture of them and did not allow them to express their views. They say that they oppose military trials of civilians, and they note that the defense argument was not kept in the court minutes, as it should have been. We have noticed that the evidence presented to the court contains no sufficient elements to indict the defendants, the Turkish lawyers say in their letter to AL-SHA'B.

GOVERNMENT CLAIMS OF FAIR ELECTIONS RIDICULED

In a 2000-word article on page 2, Chief Editor Majdi Ahmad Husayn discusses the upcoming People's Assembly elections, describing them as a "farce" and predicting that they will be rigged by the government. These are nothing like elections known by the civilized nations, he says. We are contesting them because we view them only as a brawl, an altercation which we fight with hands clean from corruption, relying on God, and hoping to provoke the people into defending their sovereignty, he adds. Husayn maintains that the government and its party are using all their resources for false propaganda, "and using police forces to harass opposition candidates, especially the candidates of the Islamic alliance." He says the government is ignoring the Constitution and laws. Husayn cites an Egyptian journalist and a former Iranian official explaining how the regimes of Anwar al-Sadat and the shah of Iran used to stage farce elections. He comments: "The mechanisms of despotism are the same, or very similar, and history repeats itself." Contending that the government is favoring the National Democratic Party candidates and restricting the freedom of opposition candidates, Husayn says: "We will not retreat; we are involved in a brawl, and we are the legitimate side in it. They are the enemies of legitimacy, the demolishers of the laws and the Constitution."

—In a 1,200-word article on page 10, al-Sayyid al-Ghadban mocks statements by government officials that the elections will be fair and free. He says the government is rejecting all demands for guarantees for fair elections. He says the government behaves as though it had a "divine right" to decide whatever it likes, and he cites government "anger" for the demand by independent intellectuals that a popular committee be formed to watch the elections.

—A 200-word unattributed report on pages 1 and 8 says that Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman Lutfi, who intended to run in the election for the Labor Party in the violence-stricken city of Mallawi "is on the brink of death" in his prison cell. He was reportedly denied candidature in the elections. The report says: "The Labor Party is demanding the immediate release of 'Abd-al-Rahman Lutfi. He is in prison and tormented without any charge except for his membership in the Labor Party and his willingness to run in the elections."

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD'S MASHHUR DISCUSSES ISRAEL, ELECTION, U.S.

In his 1,500-word column on page 5, Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Guide Mustafa Mashhur urges Islamic reconciliation, fair elections in Egypt, and warns against Israeli-U.S. plans against the Islamic nation. Mashhur begins by expressing astonishment that "some Arab governments are moving rapidly toward peace with the enemy that usurped the blessed land of Palestine and its al-Aqsa mosque by coercion, killing, and terrorism." He says this is being done while the Arab countries are not reconciled with each other, and some of them are not reconciled with their own people. He urges Arab governments to reconcile with their people through free elections. Mashhur then calls for Arab-Islamic reconciliation, maintaining that the enemies are hatching plots to create divisions and seditions among Arabs and Muslims to keep them weak.

Mashhur says that "the Zionist enemy" has determined its objective and is gradually working to achieve it with U.S. help. He notes how, "under U.S. pressure," the PLO "was tamed." He hopes the PLO will not help Israel against "the legitimate Islamic resistance". He says Egypt began peace with Israel, and now the Arab countries are rushing toward peace with the enemy. He notes Israel's attempts to Judaize Jerusalem and refers to the economic summits in Casablanca and Amman, the U.S. Congress decision to transfer the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, Qatar's trade agreement with Israel, the assassination of Fathi al-Shaqaqi in Malta, and the arrest of Hamas official Musa Abu-Marzuq in the United States. "All these tragedies and serious measures are taking place, and as usual, objections and denunciations are expressed for a while and then the storm dies down" allowing the enemy to go further with its scheme.

Mashhur says Israel, supported by Western media, maliciously labels Islamic resistance as terrorist and fundamentalist, and describes as extremist everybody working for Islam. He says this "reflects on moderate Islamists, who are then treated as extremists." Mashhur wonders that the Arab governments, nevertheless, still have hopes in Israel and rush to make peace with it. He says Arab and Muslim peoples do not accept this, and he maintains that the enemy will accept nothing less than greater Israel, which extends from the Nile to the Euphrates.

Mashhur then says that the enemies are targeting Egypt "because it is the center of gravity in the Islamic world." He says the people and government in Egypt must be careful not to be affected by the policy planned by Israel "with help from the United Stats." He urges fair elections in the country "to end this tension between the government and the various forces of the people, especially the Muslim Brothers, who want nothing but good for the whole Egypt, rulers and ruled." Mashhur urges an end to arrests and military trials, maintaining that the Muslim Brotherhood leaders now on trial by a military court are innocent. Mashhur finally criticizes "false accusations" by government officials and press that his group has links with terrorist organizations.

COLUMNIST STRESSES 'ISLAM IS THE SOLUTION'

In a 600-word article on page 10, columnist Muhammad 'Abd-al-Quddus defends the "Islam Is the Solution" slogan raised by the Islamic alliance in the People's Assembly election battle. He says true adherence to Islam is the solution to all problems faced by society, such as corruption, poverty, election rigging, and human rights violations. Noting that the West accepts religion but rejects its interference in politics, 'Abd-al-Quddus says: "Regrettably, our ruling regime supports this approach and launched a vicious war against the Islamic trend, a war based on lies and detention centers."

PLANNED RELEASE OF ISLAMISTS IN OMAN ANALYZED, WELCOMED

A 600-word article by Muhammad Jamal 'Arafah on page 9 discusses the Islamists in Oman and the government's inclination to release about 200 of them who are prisoners. The writer says the planned release is apparently linked to recent developments, including Oman's moves to normalize relations with Israel, the recent road accident involving the sultan — an accident that "according to some Arab newspapers, might have been planned." The writer says: "Perhaps the release is aimed at achieving some sort of internal detente and an attempt to absorb the anger caused by the decision to normalize relations with the Zionists." The writer, however, welcomes the step and says it will help stop the escalation between the government and the Islamic trend.

ISRAELI, U.S. INTELLIGENCE BLAMED FOR AL-SHAQAQI KILLING

In an approximately 2,300 word article on page 12, columnist Dr. Mahjub 'Umar discusses the assassination in Malta of Palestinian Islamic Jihad Leader Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi. After lavishing much praise on al-Shaqaqi's thought and militant methods, the writer accuses Israeli and U.S. intelligence services of assassinating him. "The assassination could not have been carried out in Malta without U.S. intelligence consent and an Israeli intelligence implementation." The writer says Israel, which talks much about the need to fight terrorism, "is the real terrorist, spreading its terrorist gangs worldwide to spy on and chase all mujahidin." He says the United States is happy with this, because "it now has a dirty policeman that respects no law."

AMMAN ECONOMIC SUMMIT BRIDGE FOR ISRAEL TO DOMINATE REGION

A 2,500-word report and analysis by Ahmad al-Suyufi on page 3 contends that the recent Amman economic summit was a political activity aimed at breaking the psychological barrier between the Arab and Muslim world on one side and Israel on the other. He says the idea of a Middle East development bank is meant to allow Israel to benefit from Gulf money. Al-Suyufi analyzes the Israeli paper to the summit and finds in it an Israeli attempt to hegemonize the Arab region and share Arab wealth. In the paper, the writer says, Israel blames Islamists for tension in the region and "proposes an Arab-Israeli alliance to fight what it calls Islamic fundamentalism".

—In a 1,500-word article on page 5, Dr. Muhammad Hilmi Murad warns against Israel's attempts "to dominate the Arab region" through the Middle East Market plan." He says the implementation of this plan began with the Casablanca economic conference in 1994. The second conference was held in Amman in October 1995 "to complete the work of economically controlling the Middle East," he says.

AL-GHAZALI SAYS WEST WANTS OTHERS TO REJECT GOD'S LAW

In his 400-word column on page 10, Islamic scholar Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali says religion in the West seems to be a headline for "a big illusion or an awesome spiritual vacuum". He says the Western civilization in Europe and the United States is obstructing heavenly laws and wanting others to do the same; it wants people to reject God's law and apply man-made ones. He says the Europeans are now using their influence in the United Nations "to hold international gatherings and conferences to sanction homosexuality and introduce its dirty traditions into the life of nations."

MALAYSIAN RELIGION MINISTER ON U.S. CONGRESS VOTE, OTHERS

Page 9 contains a 1,500-word interview with the Malaysian minister of religious affairs by Hazim Ghurab in Cairo; the date of the interview is not given. Asked about his country's position on the U.S. Congress decision to transfer the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, the minister stresses firm support for the Palestinian cause and says that the transfer decision "is unfair to the Palestinians and to all Muslims worldwide." He discusses Islamic education in Malaysia and peaceful preaching to gradually apply the Islamic shari'ah. He says his country helps Philippine Muslims "economically and technologically" and tries its best to work for the sake of Islam in Asia. He notes that Malaysia offers scholarships for Muslims, especially in Africa, for education and training in the country.

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 10 Nov

NC1811180095

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 10 November edition of the Arabic language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

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2. Paper Reports Attacks by "Armed Islamic Groups"
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PROTESTS OVER STUDENT ELECTIONS, MILITARY TRIALS

The issue's lead story on pages 1 and 8 is about recent student unrest, chiefly at Alexandria, al-Mansurah, and Cairo Universities, in connection with student elections. The students were protesting the ban placed by the universities' administrations on many candidates for student council elections and also the "continuing military trials of civilians."

The 900-word report, written by 'Abd-al-Hayy Muhammad and Tariq 'Abd-al-Hamid, says that the security forces arrested more than 400 students, including around 100 Cairo University students, during a demonstration staged by students from several universities on the Cairo University campus on 5 November. This was followed by fresh protests at Alexandria and al-Mansurah Universities during which the demonstrators demanded the release of the detained students. The report notes that the demonstrators also denounced the "military trials of some Muslim Brotherhood figures" and carried placards showing the portraits of some of them and also "a coffin for freedom" and a "gallows." The demonstrating students also shouted slogans expressing "their joy over the assassination of the terrorist, Zionist butcher Yitzhaq Rabin."

During an ensuing student congress called "the first conference for liberties" at al-Mansurah University, the students made recommendations. The list included "rejecting any feature of corruption imposed on us by the ruling regime to alter our Islamic identity, giving free reign to freedom of expression, lifting all restrictions on student activities, exposing every student who collaborates with the security agencies and spies on his colleagues, and allowing the unobstructed return of veiled female students to campus."

The students also demanded freedom for "the moderate Islamic movement," the adoption of a firm position on "the killers of our POW's in the 1956 and 1967 wars, and "rejecting all forms of normalization with the Zionist Jews."

The above report is accompanied by a 3-column photo of the above conference with students sitting on the ground.

PAPER REPORTS ATTACKS BY "ARMED ISLAMIC GROUPS"

In an apparent departure from an earlier form of reporting on violence in Upper Egypt, the paper publishes a 200-word straightforward report on page 1 under the headline "The Return of Violence to Upper Egypt Trains."

The report begins: "Armed assaults by armed Islamic groups against Upper Egypt trains have returned, particularly in Qina Governorate which was the scene of two incidents in which 13 passengers, including two tourists, were injured." It goes on to describe the two incidents briefly without any perceivable slant.

AL-SHA'B's reporting on violence in Upper Egypt has been in the form of long reports on inside pages. Generally blame for the ongoing violence was placed primarily on the government.

'ADIL HUSAYN DISCUSSES IMPLICATIONS OF RABIN'S ASSASSINATION

Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn writes a 2,500-word article on page 5 called: "Current Events in Israel Auger Our Victory. We Must Remain Steadfast and Not Hurry Headlong Toward Israel."

Husayn says that Rabin's assassination at the hands of another Jew is a sign of growing "division and dissolution" in Israel. Citing the writings of a researcher called 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Misiri, Husayn says that behind Israel's strong military facade "lies a fragile human community and a collection of societies rather than one nation."

He poses several questions about the likely repercussions of Rabin's death including the future of Israel's military strength, particularly its nuclear component, and Jewish influence in the United States. He says the answers are not yet known, but fears that the Jewish threat to U.S. leaders will now become greater. He notes that where formerly any U.S. President was "subservient to Jewish blackmail in the elections," he now faces an actual threat to his life. He says this is because "most Zionists in the U.S. Government's institutions are either Likud supporters or people who are more fanatical than the Likud."

Focusing on Israel's reported 200 nuclear warheads Husayn points out that AL-SHA'B has formerly wondered if the targets are the Arabs and Muslims alone or if they include Europe and even the United States.

Husayn believes, however, that the assassination has ushered in a new era and that the beneficiaries will be the Arabs and Muslims.

"The answers to these questions are known only to God, but at any rate Israel's situation, and the world with it, is different now than it was before Rabin's killing."

"Regardless of the details of future events, their general direction will be, if God wills, in favor of the Arabs and Muslims."

Husayn stresses that circumstances are changing and there is no need to rush headlong to make peace and surrender to Israel. He welcomes the Million-Man Black March organized by Louis Farrakhan in the United States and declares that the U.S. Nation of Islam is the only group that dares to accuse the Jews of sowing discord in U.S. society. Commenting on Farrakhan's remarks that he seeks better relations within U.S. society and better U.S. relations with the world, Husayn says: "God's wisdom is apparent in the fact that the voice of Farrakhan and his movement is rising at the very moment when the Zionist threat to the security of the United States and its political administration is increasing."

On the Egyptian scene, Husayn notes the upcoming election battle and hails student demonstrators who protested against election rigging not only on the level of university student councils, but also on the national scene.

'ADIL HUSAYN DENOUNCES GOVERNMENT'S EXCLUSION OF COPTS

'Adil Husayn's second article on page 5 focuses on what he believes is the government's determination to rig the People's Assembly elections and its attacks on the Egyptian Committee for the Followup of the Elections, a private group which wishes to monitor the elections.

In this 3,000-word article, entitled "O Candidates of the Labor Party and the Muslim Brotherhood, Back the Alliance for You Are the Hope of an Islamic Solution," he wonders why the ruling National Democratic Party [NDP] is not fielding Christian Coptic candidates. He wonders why, since the NDP is rigging the elections anyway, it doesn't include a few Copts to present a prettier picture to the world.

He declares: "This is really a very serious matter and constitutes crossing a red line. The NDP is playing its role in a totalitarian method and is dictating the political makeup that it favors to the nation. How can this makeup involve the exclusion of Coptic citizens?"

He asks: "Can one accuse the Islamic stream of 'fanaticism' and of rejecting the participation of Copts in the country's political life?"

'Adil Husayn notes that the Labor Party and the Islamic Alliance are fielding some Coptic candidates. He urges the electorate to vote for them on the basis of merit.

AL-SHA'B CHIEF EDITOR FACES TRIAL

A 100-word report accompanied by a passport-type photo of the newspaper's chief editor Majdi Husayn says that he will be put on trial before a misdemeanor court on 15 November on charges of slandering the interior minister's son. He will be tried in accordance with Law 93/1995, a subject of controversy since its passage. AL-SHA'B had earlier published a report entitled "The Minister's Son Returns to Egypt To Carry on as a Gangster." Husayn will be tried in line with a complaint made by 'Ala' Hasan al-Alfi who claims he is the person at whom the newspaper's report was directed.

The issue is dealt with in a more detailed manner in a 1,000-word report on page 2 which disputes President Mubarak's claim that he never silenced a writer or closed down a newspaper. 'Ala' al-Bahhar, the writer of this report, notes that in addition to Majdi Husayn, Salah 'Abd-al-Maqsud is facing a military tribunal because of an article he recently wrote defending the Muslim Brotherhood which was subsequently distributed as a pamphlet. The writer says that 'Abd-al-Maqsud will probably go to jail.

The writer lists the journalists who had been summoned for interrogation or detained for some time over the past few years. They include AL-SHA'B's former chief editor 'Adil Husayn, Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri, several AL-SHA'B staffers and some opposition journalists and even one staffer of the government-owned newspaper AL-AKHBAR.

NEWS ON PRISONERS, ELECTIONS, RELEASES

A 125-word report on page 1 says that the Interior Ministry is disregarding court orders to release 37 detainees who are Labor Party members and is keeping them in custody.

A 100-word report on the same page says that a detainee named Nasr Ahmad 'Al al-Sayyid suffered "partial paralysis as a result of torture in al-Fayyum's General Prison and was transferred to Al-Fayyum's General Hospital after he lost the power of speech."

The report says that the State Security Prosecutor's Office in Heliopolis ordered his release in September, but the Interior Ministry refused to let him go.

A 50-word report on page 1 says that in line with the Interior Ministry's policy of "making an example of detainees" the administrators of Abu Za'bal Prison, carried out a "surprise inspection of the prisoners during which they were stripped of their clothes and their blankets and personal possession burned." The report says visiting family members were subsequently surprised to see them dressed only in their underwear.

A 50-word report on page 1 says that the security authorities refused to allow Labor Party candidates for the People's Assembly elections in Cairo's Imbaba neighborhood to hold election rallies or marches. Their posters were torn up.

A 150-word report on page 1 says that the police released eight members of the Labor Party's youth branch who had been taken into custody while distributing Labor Party election leaflets. One of them received a head injury from a police officer.

A 150-word report on page 1 says that during a meeting attended by nine ministers and the Cairo governor, it was decided to display National Democratic Party election posters on the city's Public Transport Authority buses, but not opposition party posters. The report says that the chairman of the Public Transport Authority agreed because his appointment to this post had been a reward for his agreeing to abandon a lawsuit against 'Abd-al-Mun'im 'Imarah, chairman of the Higher Youth and Sports Council.

EGYPTIAN REASONS FOR REJECTING SECURITY AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL

On page 2 there is a 2,000-word report by Mahmud Bakri, written in a generally straightforward form, about Israel's reported attempts to conclude security agreements with Egypt, the Gulf Cooperation Council members, Morocco, and Tunisia to fight terrorism and create a new regional climate of peace and cooperation. The report says that the United States will sponsor such agreements without being party to them.

The report refers to an Israeli inducement offered to Egypt in the form of an offer to assist the Egyptian Government in confronting terrorism. The writer says this was a hint that Israel is willing to assist Egypt in any measures against Sudan.

Bakri says that Egypt declined to enter as third party to an Israeli-Jordanian security agreement and gave several reasons for refusing to conclude a security agreement at this time. Egypt said it wants the nuclear armament issue, a primarily security issue, to be settled first. It referred to the danger of some nuclear materials falling into the hands of extremists and terrorists. Egypt also insists on waiting until Israel concludes peace agreements with Syria and Lebanon It also asked that the issue pertaining to the killing of Egyptian POW's also to be resolved before any security agreement can be signed.

The writer notes that Cairo wants a more thorough Egyptian-Israeli discussion of what security problems the security agreement is meant to confront. He also notes that it is not eager to exchange security data with Israel because the "Egyptian security agencies possess a lot of information on Israeli activities that threaten Egypt's national security, particularly in the field of narcotics and sex."

DEFENSE CHALLENGES CONSTITUTIONALITY OF MILITARY REGULATIONS LAW

A 700-word item on pages 1 and 8 reports that the defense teams of the Muslim Brotherhood defendants in military court cases 8 and 11 have challenged a clause of the Military Regulations Law, by which the defendants are being tried, as unconstitutional. They submitted an appeal on this point to the Supreme Constitutional Court. A ruling on this issue is expected by 28 November 1995.

The lawyers contend that the second paragraph of Article 6 of the Military Regulations Law of 1966 contradicts articles 40, 62, 64, 65, 67, 68, 70, 165, 166, 167, 168, 171, and 183 of the Egyptian Constitution.

The item, written by Qutb al-'Arabi and Khalid Yunus, also reports a statement by the Journalists Association Council protesting the referral of their colleague Salah 'Abd-al-Maqsud, member of the Council, to a military court.

WRITER PROTESTS EXPRESSIONS OF REGRET OVER RABIN'S DEATH

Tal'at Musallam, a retired Egyptian Army major general and frequent contributor to AL-SHA'B, discusses Rabin's assassination in a 700-word article on page 3 with the headline: "The Road to Hell."

Musallam voices dismay at the Arab expressions of regret over the killing. He objects to the view that Rabin was a "peace hero" and inquires what kind of peace do the people who made this description mean.

"Is it the peace that involves the bombardment of south Lebanon with artillery and aircraft, lays siege to south Lebanon, and prevents that area's fishermen from going out to sea? Is it the peace that involves the continued occupation of the Golan Heights and south Lebanon and the leasing of Jordanian territories under the threat of occupation? "

The writer continues in the same strain: "Is it the peace according to which Israel—with Rabin at its head—insisted on keeping its nuclear weapons outside the sphere of international supervision? Or, is it the peace expressed by Rabin during the Amman conference when he said that Jerusalem will remain Israel's united capital? Is this the peace of which he was the hero? If it is so, then let this peace, its hero, and those who accept it go to hell."

LEBANON'S FADLALLAH VIEWS POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUE

Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, spiritual guide of Lebanon's Hizballah, identified by AL-SHA'B in a footnote at the bottom of the page as "Leader of Hizballah in Lebanon" contributes a 4,500-word article called: "Reflections on the Question of Population and Development."

The article, published in the "Dialogue" section on page 11, adopts a sober, dispassionate, and analytical tone, yet it does not have much substance. Fadlallah declares that the problem is not one of overpopulation in some countries, like Egypt for example, but a lack of economic projects. He attributes famines to the lack of proper distribution of resources and agricultural and industrial output. He points out that Europe and Israel are trying to increase, rather than limit, their population growth, noting that the Jews in Israel are trying to maintain a demographic balance with the Palestinians. He says that the attitude to population growth should be governed by every country's special circumstances.

Regarding the sound Muslim view on population and development, he says he is not advocating spiritual values as the solution to economic problems. He believes that a spiritual attitude involving faith and contentment is helpful when society has to make the material sacrifices necessary for economic reform.

On the issue of contraceptives, Fadlallah says that Islam does not object to them and opposes only permanent sterilization because it involves "killing one's energy" which is part of life. He disputes the assertion that a woman who is not permitted to have an abortion is being burdened with a pregnancy she does not want. He asks why she allows herself to become pregnant in the first place when contraceptives are available. He adds that taking the woman and her partner's views into account on terminating a pregnancy is not enough because this disregards the third person involved, namely, the unborn baby. He notes that according to some Islamic interpretations abortion is allowed for medical reasons if it is carried out before the fourth month of pregnancy.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Announces Early Troop Withdrawal From Bethlehem

JN1711125395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat asserted that the Israeli occupation forces will withdraw from Bethlehem a week earlier than the date set for their withdrawal. Upon his arrival at the Presidency in Gaza from Paris this morning, President 'Arafat said he will take part in Christmas celebrations in Bethlehem.

President 'Arafat said his talks with French President Jacques Chirac were positive and constructive. He said he discussed with the French president Palestinian-French and Palestinian-European ties, as well as the important role played by France in advancing the peace process and helping the Palestinian people.

'Arafat Pays Visit to Janin, Delivers Speech

JN1911150495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A short while ago, His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Gaza from Janin, where he chaired the Palestinian National Authority's cabinet weekly meeting. The cabinet deliberations focused on the draft Electoral Law, redeployment, and the measures required to resolve the citizens' problems, particularly in the areas recently liberated. We have with us on the telephone line colleague Nasir Abu-Bakr from Janin.

[Begin Abu-Bakr recording] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat left the liberated city of Janin for Gaza a short while ago after chairing the National Authority's cabinet weekly meeting, the first to be held on the territory of liberated Janin. The ministers and Salim al-Za'nun, acting speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC], attended.

After the meeting, al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the Presidency, told our radio that the cabinet discussed the draft Electoral Law and reports on the situation in the city of Janin in the aftermath of the dismantlement of the occupation and the arrival of National Security forces in the city. He asserted that the cabinet decided to refer the draft Electoral Law, after amending it, to a legal committee to be chaired by Salim al-Za'nun. The membership of this committee will include PLO Executive Committee member Jamal al-Surani; Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation; Education Minister Yasir 'Amr; and al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the Presidency.

'Abd-al-Rahim stressed that the cabinet discussed only one item on its agenda; namely, the draft Electoral Law. The cabinet was apprised of the amendments suggested by the PLO Executive Committee. Once amended, the law will be issued as a final statute, according to which the elections will be held.

President Yasir 'Arafat had arrived in the city of Janin at 1100 today. He delivered a speech attended by 100,000 residents of the governorate. In his speech, he said: In the name of God, most gracious, most merciful. In the name of the Palestinian people, I declare the city of Janin liberated.

'Arafat urged all Palestinians to cast their votes in the upcoming legislative elections in order to build a bright future under a Palestinian state.

In his speech, which was aired by international news agencies and television stations, President 'Arafat saluted martyrs and prisoners, and asserted that the peace process is continuing and will forge ahead until the achievement of the higher national objectives of the Palestinian people. He also saluted Palestinian women and their struggle, saying that they are the guardians of our existence.

After the cabinet meeting, His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat received crowds of citizens who came to pledge allegiance to him and to congratulate him on the liberation of Janin. He also received nationalist figures and personalities and representatives of organizations. He said that he is taking an interest in rebuilding the city, particularly since it has been liberated.

For his part, Marwan Kanafani, adviser to President 'Arafat and his spokesman, said the cabinet discussed reports regarding the protection of human lives and property. He added that President 'Arafat was happy with his visit to liberated Janin, and with the imminent liberation of the rest of Palestinian cities, villages, and populated centers, which will be the catalyst for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

Kanafani indicated that the cabinet primarily debated the draft Palestinian Electoral Law. [end recording]

'Arafat: Redeployment Proceeding on Schedule

JN1911195895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Yasir 'Arafat has stressed that the process of redeployment in preparation for the forthcoming elections is proceeding along the timetable agreed upon with the Israelis. President 'Arafat stated this in Gaza today shortly after he returned from Janin, which he visited this morning for the first time since 1967.

'Arafat added that the handing over of the other Palestinian towns and villages will be completed according to the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. His excellency said the Palestinian presidential and legislative elections will be held before the start of the holy month of Ramadan [on or around 20 January 1995].

During his visit to Janin, President 'Arafat chaired the Cabinet's weekly session. [passage omitted]

President 'Arafat donated $120,000 to Janin municipal council to support the council's plans to improve roads and infrastructure in the city.

'Arafat Telephones Condolences to Egypt's Mubarak

JN1911202895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat has telephoned his brother Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to offer his condolences on the death of victims in the sinful attack against the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad today.

President 'Arafat wished a speedy recovery to the wounded.

Kanafani Denies Arrest of Group Planning To Kill 'Arafat

JN1711124395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Marwan Kanafani, President Yasir 'Arafat's adviser and official spokesman, denied reports by Israeli sources on the Palestinian police's arrest of a group of five individuals that tried to assassinate President 'Arafat.

Kanafani also denied news agency reports that President 'Arafat did not participate in celebrations marking the independence declaration of the Palestinian state because he fears for his life. Kanafani said these reports are absurd, noting that 'Arafat did participate in independence day celebrations and that he was forced to travel to Paris because he had prior engagements with the presidents who attended the UNESCO's 50th anniversary.

Kanafani Speaks on Peace Accords, Elections

NC1811080595 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 18 Nov 95

[Telephone interview with Marwan Kanafani, political adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, in Gaza by Ramadan Husayn in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" Program—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Husayn] How do you assess the [Israeli withdrawal] move, especially as it follows the assassination of former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin?

[Kanafani] Of course this measure is not only the solution but also the remedy. In my view, the reason for the rise in the extremist settlers' activities is the Israeli side's hesitation to implement the peace process. This gave the extremists in Israel the hope that they would be able to halt the peace process if they took violent action against the Israeli or Palestinian leadership.

I believe that continuing to implement the accord is the solution, the answer, and the remedy in this case.

[Husayn] Do you believe that acting Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' leadership of the government will give a new impetus to implementing the accords signed between the Palestinian National Authority [PA] and the Israeli Government?

[Kanafani] Naturally this tragic takeover so to speak, that is to say this follows Prime Minister Rabin's assassination, gives Mr. Peres the power to implement the accord. Mr. Peres is not new to the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations or the entire peace process. He is one of the principle leaders who kept abreast of the process and one of the most experienced Israeli leaders in this process along with the Palestinian side.

[Husayn] So you agree with us that Rabin's murder has revealed sharp divisions within Israeli society. Differences over them were decided in favor of peace.

[Kanafani] We hope so. We hope that the peace camp has won or taken the lead in Israel because we know that the enemies of peace are everywhere. They exist not only in Israel but also in the United States and in the U.S. Congress where they are trying to hinder the peace process. We regret that the obstruction occurred in a criminal way with the assassination of the Israeli prime minister.

We believe that the safety of the peace process should serve as a guarantee for both Palestinian and Israeli societies. We hope that the Israeli Government will continue to implement the program for which it was elected by the Israeli people, the program of peace. [passage omitted]

[Husayn] What about the Palestinian opposition parties' participation in elections?

[Kanafani] Let me first say that the elections are the most important Palestinian political event in the 20th century. This is the first time the Palestinian people are able to select their real representatives to assume their role in enacting laws and issuing laws that will govern Palestinian society. [passage omitted]

We hope the elections will be held on time and that they will bring into the council responsible people who are able to bear responsibility for leading the country in the coming phase.

[Husayn] Has Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] decided to participate in these elections?

[Kanafani] This is a decision for the brothers in Hamas to make. I add my modest vote to all the others who are urging all opposition organizations, not only Hamas, to participate in these elections and agree on a framework for action. Boycotting the elections will benefit no one and will isolate those who stand (?against) Palestinian unanimity on advancing the peace process.

[Husayn] We have heard reports about current contacts between the PA and opposition parties, especially after the PLO Executive Committee meeting in Cairo. What is the truth about these reports?

[Kanafani] Naturally there is a new perception among the Palestinian opposition parties and even among the National Authority officials that work should continue and intensify to achieve national unity, particularly at this crucial stage. I believe that the Palestinian parties of various tendencies and the National Authority are serious about reaching a national agreement on everyone's participation in the elections. In addition to being a national demand, it is a national requirement.

'Abd-al-Shafi: Elections Should Support 'National Goals'

JN1911154395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, leader of the Palestinian Democratic Construction Movement [harakat al-bina' al-dimuqrati al-filastini], has urged efforts to promote national unity and use the upcoming legislative elections to support Palestinian national goals. Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi made the remarks at a seminar the movement held in Gaza at noon today.

For his part, Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, official of Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement], stressed the need for a meeting between all political factions on the one hand and the Palestinian National Authority on the other to debate the draft Electoral Law and urge a smaller number of constituencies in order to curb tribalism and individualism.

Al-Husayni on Confederation With Jordan, Jerusalem

JN2011114095 Amman AL-HADATH in Arabic 22 Nov 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Faysal al-Husayni, official in charge of the Jerusalem file in the National Authority, said that the proposed confederation with Jordan will be temporary and for a limited time. He did not expect this confederation to continue, noting that Jordanians are hesitant in this regard. He said that the confederation could later turn into a federation.

Al-Husayni expressed a stand which is neither optimistic nor pessimistic in the wake of the assassination of Rabin and the assumption of power by Peres. He said that he did not prefer the policy of fear and exaggeration toward the U.S. Congress' decision to move the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem.

In an attempt to explain Rabin's death, al-Husayni said: The reason was due to the flabby policy Rabin adopted against Jewish extremism.

Regarding the Congress' decision which was issued under pressure by the Zionist and Jewish lobby to move the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem, he pointed out: The Palestinians wager on that the U.S. Administration adheres to international resolutions and charters which recognize the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, and that it is committed to the peace process.

Al-Husayni revealed that the Palestinians have some ideas concerning negotiations on the future of the holy city, however, he refused to give any details.

Faysal al-Husayni said: The pillars of the establishment of a Palestinian state are available, and there is nothing obstructing the achievement of this objective other than the continuation of the Israeli occupation. If the Israeli occupation forces withdraw, the independent Palestinian state will be established automatically based on all these available pillars.

On the growing Israeli extremism against the peace process, Faysal al-Husayni said: This issue depends on the extent of the Israeli Government's success in curbing extremism, and weakening its effect and efficiency. The recent developments in Israel provides the government with a chance to achieve this objective.

10 Palestinian NSF Officers Arrive in Tulkarm

JN1911135095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ten officers of the National Security Forces [NSF] arrived in Tulkarm to take over the joint liaison Palestinian-Israeli headquarters in preparation for the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces from the city.

Colleague Mu'in Shabib is with us on the line from Tulkarm:

[Sahar, not further identified] Good afternoon, Mu'in.

[Shabib] Good afternoon, Sahar. I speak with you from the heart of the Palestinian-Israeli liaison headquarters in Tukarm. A short while ago, the vanguards of the NSF began to arrive in Tulkarm city heralding the end of the Israeli occupation of this city and the transfer of powers to the National Authority.

Brigadier General Ziyad al-Atrash, Colonel 'Adil Dabkah, Lieutenant General Qays al-Mukhayzimi, Colonel Mazin Hijazi, and Colonel Ribhi 'Arafat arrived here. They were received in Tulkarm by hundreds of city inhabitants who shouted patriotic slogans and hoisted Palestinian flags in spite of the barricades set by the occupation forces on the streets leading the liaison headquarters.

The vanguards of the Palestinian NSF were received by Colonel 'Adil Dabkah, commander of Tulkarm Governorate police, and Mufid 'Abd-Rabbuh, director general of the Ministry of Youths and sports in the Palestinian National Authority.

Joy and pleasure are clear for the arrival of the NSF vanguards in Tulkarm Governorate. A meeting is now under way between the Palestinian and Israeli liaison committees to discuss the mechanism of the Israeli withdrawal from Tulkarm. We will be with you in the next newscasts, God willing.

[Sahar] God willing, colleague Mu'in.

PFLP Urges Oslo Opponents To Register To Vote

JN1811164995 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Damascus, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) has urged its members and all national, democratic, and Islamic forces opposing the Oslo Agreement to exercise their right to register their names in the voters lists in the occupied West Bank, Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem and to obtain the voting card, since it is a right of every citizen.

The PFLP, which has repeatedly announced that it opposes the Palestinian elections slated for 20 January 1995, stressed that this call does not mean it has changed its position on the Oslo and Cairo agreements or the Palestinian elections.

VOP Reports 'Violent' Clashes With Settlers

JN1911071595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] There have been violent clashes between the deported residents of the village of Iqrit and settlers from the neighboring settlement of Shomera yesterday. A number of villagers were wounded in the clashes. One of the wounded was identified as Bisharah Bisharah who was taken to Nahariya hospital. He was reported in serious condition.

People deported from the village have been staging a sit-in since October. They call for implementing an Israeli Higher Court decision allowing them to return to their lands.

Hamas Refuses To Take Part in Elections

NC1711180895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has reasserted its refusal to participate in the self-rule elections scheduled for January. It accused the Palestinian Authority [PA] of backing down on initiating a scheduled dialogue in Khartoum. Ibrahim Ghawshah, Hamas official spokesman, said: We are for free and comprehensive legislative elections, however, the upcoming elections will not be free. He expressed his fear that the PA's retraction from the dialogue might be a tactical policy to mark time. He said that the PA suggests to the Palestinian public that it is in favor of dialogue, yet it practically obstructs it in order to mark time until the elections.

Hamas Denies Presenting Memorandum to 'Arafat

JN1911190295 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has denied presenting a memorandum to the chairman of the limited administrative self-rule authority via leading members of the Movement.

The Hamas Movement has emphasized its clear and firm position on the self-rule elections.

Shaykh Ahmad Bahr also denied the presence of such a memorandum, which bears his signature, along with the signatures of a number of the movement leaders. He told our correspondent: I have no links with this memorandum, and I am not aware of any such memorandum.

'Arafat's authority is trying relentlessly to paint a false picture of the positions of the movements and factions that are opposed to the treacherous Oslo agreement by spreading rumors that some of them have agreed to participate in the elections.

Moroccan Official Comments on Liaison Office in Gaza

LD1711134595 Rabat MAP in English 1314 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza, Nov. 17 (MAP) — The Moroccan liaison office in Gaza has been endeavoring, since its opening in October 1994, for the consolidation of rapproachment between the Moroccan and Palestinian peoples.

The statement was made by head of the Moroccan office in Gaza Col.-Maj. Abdeslam Sinaceur in a statement to MAP special envoy.

The official underlined that the opening of the bureau in Gaza was highly appreciated by the Palestinian leaders and people.

The Moroccan liaison bureau is the only Arab bureau in Gaza that issues visas to Palestinians wishing to visit Morocco with a Palestinian passport. The Palestinian passport has been so far recognized by 40 countries.

Speaking of the activities of the liaison bureau, Col.-Maj. Sinaceur cited the organizing of holiday camps in Morocco for children of Palestinian martyrs, the holding of training sessions in Moroccan ministerial departments for executives from the Palestinian autonomous administration and the granting of scholarships for Palestinian students to study in Morocco.

Some 244 Palestinian students are currently attending Moroccan universities. 6O of these students benefit from scholarships granted by the Moroccan Government.

Part of the Moroccan-Palestinian cooperation, many Moroccan engineers from the national airports office are currently in Gaza to supervise the construction of the international airport of Gaza, launched last month.

An accord was signed last July between the Moroccan airports office and the Palestinian civil aviation body by virtue of which the Moroccan office supervises the construction of the Gaza airport. The airport, to be built over 217 hectares, requires 40 million dollars.

Under another accord signed between the Palestinian tourism and archaeology department and the Moroccan cultural affairs department, Morocco is to participate in the rehabilitation of al-Omari Mosque of Gaza.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Israelis, Syrians Hold 'Unprecedented' Meeting

TA1711120895 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 17 Nov 95 pp 1, 2

[Report by Ben Kaspit]

[FBIS Translated Text] A dramatic meeting took place in Brussels yesterday between Eytan Bentzur, deputy director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, and a senior Syrian Foreign Ministry official.

"We spoke for almost 45 minutes in a very friendly and businesslike atmosphere. This was an unprecedented and very good meeting" — this was how Bentzur described to MA'ARIV his meeting with Rafiq Jawajati, head of the Syrian Foreign Ministry Political Department [name and title as published].

The meeting was held within the framework of the preparatory meeting for the Barcelona conference, slated to convene late this month with the participation of Mediterranean countries' foreign ministers. The meeting was held after the Syrian official had obtained the approval of Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. A senior Spanish diplomat who helped organize the meeting attended its initial segment, but later left Bentzur and his Syrian interlocutor alone.

During the meeting, the two bridged some of the differences of opinion in anticipation of the Barcelona conference. Bentzur says Syria has retracted its ultimatum that Israel be called upon to immediately withdraw from all territories. At the same time, the Syrian representative insisted that Hizballah's actions in Lebanon be defined as the operation of freedom fighters. The meeting was held after extremely tense discussions over the last two days, during which the Syrians posed extremist demands regarding the concluding political statement of the Barcelona conference, which the foreign ministers of Israel, Syria, and Lebanon are slated to attend. At the same time, Syria and Lebanon participated in the joint mourning announcement made by the preparatory meeting on Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's murder.

Bentzur Comments on Meeting

TA1911081995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0715 GMT 19 Nov 95

[Telephone interview with Eytan Bentzur, Foreign Ministry deputy director general, by moderator Sheli Yehimovich on 19 November; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Yehimovich] You have held a meeting which had been sanctioned by the Syrian foreign minister. Can the content of that meeting be described as an indication of entente?

[Bentzur] I do not wish to exaggerate the importance of the meeting. The meeting was characterized by a more pleasant tone and atmosphere, by an absence of the usual onslaught of criticism and incriminations which characterized past talks. The conversation was remarkably businesslike, and an effort was made to bridge gaps we encountered while discussing the document of principles of the Barcelona Conference. [passage omitted]

I would like to add that the Barcelona Conference is a chance to discuss a spectrum of issues beyond purely defense and political matters.

[Yehimovich] Did you feel that the assassination of our prime minister prompted the Syrians to adopt more flexible stands, or at least to seek a dialogue again?

[Bentzur] I am convinced that this heinous murder had an impact on the Syrians, too.

[Yehimovich] Although they have not denounced it officially.

[Bentzur] They have not, but the chairman of the opening session made a statement endorsed by all the participants offering condolences and expressing sadness, and shock at the tragedy. [passage omitted]

[Yehimovich] Do the Israeli negotiators feel the Syrians are now really interested in attaining peace?

[Bentzur] I think the questions and uncertainties are still there. All I can point to is a change of tone, a more businesslike attitude, a more forthcoming manner, more careful remarks, as evidenced at the most recent session of the steering committee in Brussels. [passage omitted]

[Yehimovich] Was anything said about Shim'on Peres' personality, views, or ability to lead the process?

[Bentzur] I think the very fact that the meeting was held reflects their belief in his ability.

[Yehimovich] Thank you very much, Eytan Bentzur.

Rabinovich: Talks With Syria 'Still Not Possible'

TA2011070695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 20 Nov 95

[Telephone interview with Professor Itamar Rabinovich, Israeli ambassador to the United States, by political correspondent Shlomo Raz; place and date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Raz] Prof. Itamar Rabinovich, Israeli ambassador to the United States and head of the negotiating team with Syria, says that it is still not possible to resume the talks with that country. Rabinovich noted that Israel was still insisting on maintaining an early warning ground station in the areas it will vacate on the Golan Heights. Ambassador Rabinovich does not expect Prime Minister-designate Shim'on Peres to meet with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' in Barcelona next week. Rabinovich asserted that the appropriate level for a high-level meeting would now be between Peres and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

[Begin recording] [Rabinovich] In previous years, the question of a meeting between Mr. Peres and Faruq al-Shar' was relevant since both men were foreign ministers. I assume that next week Mr. Peres will arrive in Barcelona as Israel's prime minister and that the proper level for a meeting would be between him and President Hafiz al-Asad, not Foreign Minister al-Shar'. In the situation that has developed, what was an exciting possibility two months ago now appears much less so.

[Raz] Prof. Rabinovich, the talks between Syria and Israel were halted due to Syria's refusal to continue the talks between military officers. In other words, they deviated from the agreed-upon format. Is Israel still making any resumption of the talks conditional on the same format?

[Rabinovich] We did not insist that the third stage we agreed upon would necessarily be between experts. Had the Syrians proposed some other level of meeting on security issues, I do not think it would have posed a problem. The problem was that Syria suddenly presented preconditions for any progression from the second to third stages in the scheduled series of meetings. At the moment, I do not see any such preconditions being made. Therefore, the entire issue under the present circumstances seems far less acute.

[Raz] Are you saying, in other words, that the talks can be resumed?

[Rabinovich] No. The talks cannot be renewed yet; I believe, however, that if the Syrians present a constructive, fruitful, and promising position, the negotiations can resume. I think that the problem is not so much the resumption of contacts. We seek meaningful negotiations that can bring results, and the main goal of today's meeting [with Dennis Ross, head of the U.S. peace team] was to draw the appropriate conclusions from three years of negotiations and to try to channel them into venues of action that will lead to fruitful negotiations, with emphasis on the word fruitful.

[Raz] I understand that Israel's goal, intention, or desire is to upgrade the talks to the ministerial level?

[Rabinovich] There is nothing new in the demand for meetings on the political level, which Mr. Peres and the late Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin raised on numerous occasions. We always viewed Syria's refusal to hold direct meetings without the presence of third parties or to hold talks on the political level, thus facilitating decisionmaking while at the same time reflecting a public message, as crucial to the negotiating process.

[Raz] Has there been any change in Israel's position with regard to early warning stations? Is Israel still demanding early warning ground stations in the areas from which it will withdraw on the Golan Heights?

[Rabinovich] The issue of early warning is of great importance in our view. We continue to demand an early warning ground station, which constitutes an extremely vital component of the security arrangements. There has been no change in our position on this.

[Raz] Judging by your information, what are the chances of reaching a peace agreement between Syria and Israel before the 1996 elections or the end of 1996?

[Rabinovich] It is premature to engage in such speculation, especially regarding the time frame. There have been three partners in these negotiations until now. Two of them met today. Were it solely up to these two partners, progress could certainly be made; there is also a third partner, however, who plays an extremely crucial role. Before we thoroughly understand the details of its position, it is very hard to make the kind of assessment you asked for. [end recording]

Algeria

Zeroual Address to Nation on Election Victory

LD1711124395 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1108 GMT 17 Nov 95

[Address to the nation by President Liamine Zeroual at his election campaign headquarters in Algiers — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate; prayers and peace be upon the most honorable of messengers.

Ladies and gentlemen: The Algerian people yesterday experienced a great and historic event because, as you know, the Algerian people went to the ballot boxes to choose a president for the first time ever in the era of multiparty politics and in total freedom and transparency. This event is also great and historic in view of the tremendous turnout by the Algerian people and the Algerian community in all countries of the world. This confers more honor and glory upon this great people.

Therefore, on this occasion, I address myself to the authentic people of Algeria to congratulate them on this great victory, which is the victory of their free will and the victory of real democracry in our country. [applause]

I would also like to take this opportunity, ladies and gentlemen, to praise the huge efforts made by our security forces, the members of the National People's Army [applause], the civil servants of the Algerian state, and the Algerian media [applause], as these huge efforts helped ensure that these elections were held in good conditions and in a way which, as I have already said, does honor to the people of Algeria as a whole.

Ladies and gentlemen, it has not escaped my attention that praise is due to the effective contribution of my brothers Messrs. Noureddine Boukrouh, Mahfoud Nahnah, and Said Sadi for their contributions to the promotion of democracy in our country, and I congratulate them on obtaining a large number of votes from sections of the Algerian people who supported their programs.

Ladies and gentlemen, as for myself, I pride myself on the trust placed in me by a majority of Algerians, within and outside this precious homeland. I also feel the weight of this trust, and I shall do my best to be worthy of it. I shall also do my best to be a president for all the Algerians, in order to build Algeria together, and, with God's help, achieve all the legitimate aspirations for the great Algerian people.

At the end of this address, I would like to repeat that the victory achieved by our people yesterday is a victory for their sovereignty, and a victory for true democracy in our country. It is also a lesson which Algeria has given to its enemies, within and outside.

Long live the democratic and free Algeria, and glory and immortality to our dutiful martyrs. Peace and God's blessings be upon you.

Arab Leaders Congratulate Zeroual on Victory

PLO's Yasir 'Arafat

LD1711150695 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Liamine Zeroual, president-elect of the Republic, today held a telephone conversation with the Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, who congratulated him on his election as the head of the Republic of Algeria. During this telephone conversation, the two presidents reiterated their commitment and determination to continue strengthening the relations of brotherhood, solidarity, and good neighborliness between Algeria and Tunisia.

Zeroual also held a telephone conversation with Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, who congratulated him on his election as president of the Republic.

Syrian President al-Asad

LD1811223695 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 18 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On the occasion of his election as president of the republic, Mr Liamine Zeroual received today the congratulations of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. He wished the Algerian people security, stability, and prosperity.

Tunisian President Ben Ali

LD1711143395 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali at noon today made a telephone call to Algerian President Liamine Zeroual, during which he expressed his most sincere congratulations on the confidence accorded to him by the brotherly Algerian people in electing him as president of the Republic, and his wishes of success for him and the realization of the advancement, prosperity, and security to which the Algerian people aspire.

On the occasion, the president stressed the need to further consolidate the ties of fraternity and cooperation between the two countries in a way that will benefit the interest of the two brotherly peoples and consolidate the Arab Maghreb Union.

On his part, President Liamine Zeroual expressed his utmost pleasure at the congratulations and the sentiments of fraternity and amity expressed by the president toward him, and the expressions of appreciation and sincere fraternal wishes toward the people of Algeria.

Libya's al-Qadhdhafi

LD1811083495 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The brother leader of the revolution [Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi] has sent a message of congratulations to President Liamine Zeroual on his election as president of Algeria. Here is the text of the message:

Dear brother President Liamine Zeroual: We congratulate you on the Algerian people's confidence in you, and we congratulate you on your courage for taking on this difficult national responsibility. However, this is not strange for a militant like yourself, who joined the revolution in the prime of his youth. We support you and wish you success.

[Signed] Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi

Mauritanian, Western Saharan Presidents

LD1711190995 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President-Elect Liamine Zeroual had a telephone conversation today with Mauritanian President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, who expressed his warm congratulations on the election of Mr Zeroual as president of the Algerian Republic.

President Zeroual seized this opportunity to renew Algeria's commitment to the strengthening of the close and multi-faceted relations binding the Algerian and the Mauritanian peoples. [passage omitted]

Mr Zeroual also received by telephone the warm congratulations of the [Western] Saharan President Mohamed Abdelaziz on the occasion of his election as president of the republic.

Yemeni President Salih

LD1811121495 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 18 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] President Liamine Zeroual also received a telephone call from President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih of Yemen who congratulating him on his election as president of the republic.

Candidates Comment on Election Outcome

LD1711202095 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Nov 95

[Italicized passages recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the announcement on the outcome the first round of the presidential elections and the election of Mr Liamine Zeroual, the other three candidates, Noureddine Boukrouh, Said Sadi, and Mahfoud Nahnah held news conferences. The following is the statement made by Mr Noureddine Boukrouh:

[Boukrouh] *I would like to salute the whole Algerian people and congratulate it on this great triumph — the success of the presidential elections in our country.*

I salute all Algerians who managed to free themselves from fear and doubt and performed their voting duty.

As far as I am concerned, I believe the presidential elections were a success given the high turnout. I salute the other three candidates for their hard work to achieve such a high turnout.

Today, the Algerian people has regained confidence in itself, in its state and in democracy.

Today, the people said Yes to a new political chapter, Yes to a new beginning, Yes to peace, and No to violence.

On his part, Mr Said Sadi made the following statement after the announcement on the election of Mr Liamine Zeroual:

[Sadi] *Firstly, I would like to salute Algerians who believed in me. In doing so, they were not helped by the state and its administration. Rather they were prompted by their love for country and their own mobilization.*

I would like also to salute the security forces for making sure that citizens could vote calmly in good conditions.

The majority of Algerians voted for Mr Liamine Zeroual — I congratulate him and wish success in his duties.

The break with past which we had been hoping for did not materialize. Our struggle did, however, bring new elements to the national dialogue; the election campaign focused on these elements. Also, today we have discovered the real weight of the fundamentalist [movement] in the society.

Regardless of the outcome of this election, I still think that we should stick to a republican platform and try to rally around it all the citizens who believe in it.

However, I believe that these elections are a victory for Algeria.

On his part, Mahfoud Nahnah made the following statement:

[Nahnah] *In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. I would like to praise the extensive participation by the Algerian people in the first multi-party presidential elections in our beloved Algeria, through which the people wanted to express their commitment to a peaceful course, democratic option, and aspiration to civic peace and reconciliation.*

I would like to thank the great Algerian masses that responded to me during the process of collecting signatures and during the election campaign and voted for me. I would also like to thank the activists in my movement who contributed in facilitating the election campaign.

I would like to record my regret at the numerous and varied infringements committed against me, regarding which I have submitted documented reports to the competent authorities.

Election Monitoring Committee Comments

LD1711212195 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Nov 95

[Interview with Said Ayachi, official spokesman of the National Independent Committee for Monitoring the Presidential Elections, by correspondent Messaoud Boultiour; place and date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Ayachi] Our first comment as an independent national committee to monitor the elections is total satisfaction. Our hope that we have done our duty and discharged our task with the satisfied conscious of every member of this committee, which was set up to oversee the application of the law and on the freedom and transparency of this elections. Therefore, before we submit our official impressions in the final report that will be published in the coming days, God willing, we can say that Algeria has made a positive and historic step in its modern history.

[Messaoud] Mr. Ayachi, is it possible to know today what the general atmosphere of this election was? Were there, for example, some violations?

[Ayachi] No doubt in an election process of this magnitude — a presidential election in a country the size of Algeria — it is inevitable to find some defects, bad incidents here and there; however, on the whole, the Committee was vigilant vis-a-vis all cases it received from provincial circles and even from individuals. We did register some defects, be it at the organization or the application of the law levels. Yet these incidents and their size were not to obstruct the progress of the electoral process. Furthermore, all members of the Committee were enlisted and sorted things very speedily through quick intervention with the concerned authorities.

[Messaoud] Mr. Said Ayachi, some of the candidates in this election have said that they lodged a few complaints with the National Independent Committee. Can we know the nature of those complaints and what was their fate after the outcome of the elections was decided?

[Ayachi] Yes, we received a few complaints, especially from the HAMAS Movement regarding some cases that were described as violations. Their nature was varied. Those incidents are under scrutiny because, as you know, we apply a certain methodology and we have to ascertain matters first and foremost. This task is being done by our provincial committees and consequently those cases are under study and investigation and will be submitted to the concerned authorities, which today is one concerned authority — namely, the Constitutional Council.

To Publish Report Soon

LD1811203695 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 18 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Independent Commission for Monitoring the Presidential Elections has issued the following communique:

The National Independent Commission for Monitoring the Presidential Elections — the powers vested in it, the trust the parties to the dialogue have in it, and the heavy responsibility — all have made the national commission do its best to restore the internal public opinion's trust through justice, enabling the people to take full power through casting their vote with freedom and dignity. The commission expresses its great satisfaction at the large turnout of the Algerian people, who have proven, on more than one occasion, to take the initiative and accept the challenge for national duty. The Algerian people have proven to the enemies at home and abroad that it is a civilized and brave people, capable of making its own destiny, putting an end to those who cast their bets on its failure and lack of self-confidence.

November 16 was a symbol of the effective will that has removed all the masks and destroyed all the powers intending evil against Algeria. The commission greets all the candidates who contributed to a great extent to the consolidation of a democratic culture, despite the noted shortcomings that did not affect the good running of the elections.

According to the platform and statutes of the National Commission for Monitoring the Presidential Elections, the commission will publish its evaluations report for the public in the next few days.

Arab League Delegation Head Comments on Election

LD1711152395 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The international observers' delegations in charge of monitoring the progress of the election process made numerous assessments of the operation. Among those is 'Abd-al-'Ali 'Abd-al-Karim, head of the Arab League observers' delegation, who commented on these results to Amina Debbadj:

[Begin 'Abd-al-Karim recording] In fact, from what we have observed and seen since our arrival in Algeria to observe and monitor the election process, it is not strange that participation reached this turnout. What I would like to say on this occasion is that this turnout in fact expresses an objective reality. In other words, the Algerian people have succeeded in breaking down the wall of fear and transcending it. They have also succeeded in transcending the barrier of marginalization, the barrier of guardianship, and they have reached a stage at which they become the active element, the essential element at the moment of reformulating the Algerian homeland. The voice of the Algerian voter has been represented freely and willingly. We also noticed in the locations in which we were deployed that the attendance was intensive. The attendance was the result of a sincere desire of the Algerian voter to express his will and conviction that the will for change is made at the grass roots, by the people who wanted to tell me many things: We, as Algerian people, shall start here the restructuring of things, and we shall give our votes to the program that achieves our aspirations in security, stability, development, and prosperity. [passage omitted]

The issues I want to stress here is that the attendance was intensive and the progress of the election process was quiet. The process took place in our presence as international observers alongside other observers, in addition to the presence of the candidates' representatives. [passage omitted] [end recording]

OAU Observers' Delegation Issues Statement

LD1811221795 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 18 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Organization of African Unity's [OAU] delegation for monitoring the elections stressed today the freedom and democratic characteristics of the pluralistic presidential elections that ended on 16 November and elected Mr Liamine Zeroual to the head of the republic.

The African delegation pointed out that the elections took place calmly with freedom and transparency. The delegation stressed that it carried out its task with full freedom throughout the national territory.

The OAU's observers, who are 50 in number, presented the results of the task they performed in 24 provinces, including the capital Algiers, in a statement published today in Algiers.

The delegation, headed by Major General Amadou Toumani Toure, noted that the Algerians went in mass to the ballot boxes during the election, which was enveloped in excellent material conditions.

Amina Debache has the statement:

[Debache] The OAU's observers' delegation published a press statement; the following is its text:

On invitation from the Algerian authorities, the OAU formed a 50-member delegation headed by Major General Amadou Toumani Touri to monitor the progress of the presidential elections today, 16 November. On this day, the OAU's observers were deployed throughout 24 provinces, including the capital.

At the end of their task, which they carried out with full freedom, the OAU drew the following conclusions:

Firstly, the presidential elections on 16 November took place in excellent material conditions.

Secondly, the Algerian voters headed to the ballot boxes in huge numbers on the aforementioned day.

Thirdly, the elections took place in an atmosphere in which calmness, freedom, and transparency prevailed.

Fourthly, the OAU's observers found all help from the administrative authorities in charge of organizing the elections in all the provinces they had been to.

Fifthly, and last, the OAU's observers' delegation offered its thanks to the Algerian authorities, who allowed the delegation to carry out its task under the best of conditions.

This was the press statement issued by the OAU's observers delegation.

Former Prime Ministers Interviewed on Elections

LD1711144995 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 17 Nov 95

[Interviews with Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi and former prime ministers Mouloud Hamrouche, Abessalam Belaid, and Rehda Malek by unidentified correspondents; places and dates not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Sifi] As you know, the election turnout figure is about 75 percent. This is important and it was probably not expected by several quarters. This augurs well and makes every Algerian, man and woman, happy. As far as I am concerned as a citizen and an official, this is important to me and I feel, I believe like all citizens, that I am living in a historic moment. As a citizen I have never voted with such emotion. I have high hopes, and I hope all Algerians will share this feeling with me, to see our country finally come out of this crisis.

[Correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister, were you expecting such a result?

[Sifi] I was expecting at least 60 percent.

[Correspondent] As you already said.

[Sifi] I was even expecting 70-80 percent and said to myself: Why not? As an Algerian I know that the Algerians have always faced up to the challenges and took up the challenges. Praise be to God, we have reached 75 percent.

[Correspondent] Mr. Mokdad Sifi, no doubt the high turnout figures, which took many observers by surprise, are probably due partly to you and particularly to the steadfast and continuous action of your government in a difficult security and economic situation. In your visits to the provinces you always tried to raise the morale of the citizens and you always urged them to continue their work and remain mobilized. Now, what is the future of political action in Algeria in the light of these results and how do you see the next few weeks develop at this level?

[Sifi] As an official I have indeed taken part and contributed and made the necessary effort. But I believe that I only did my duty despite the misunderstandings and the misconceptions by some and despite the difficulties and the doubts from some places. It was not easy to reach this historic day. There were many people, as you said, who did not expect such a turnout. As I said, after my direct contacts and talks with the citizens I came to the conclusion that there would be a high turnout. The problems were complex and difficult in several areas, including the political, economic, and social areas but now the result is here and we are pleased by it. The people have spoken and nothing will stop them.

As for the future, we expect to have an elected president who has been given all the power and all the means through the people's importance. I also believe that the people have demonstrated that they will in the future contribute, supervise, and remain present. Their importance will now be taken into account. The elected candidate is an Algerian who enjoys trust and who works in Algeria's interest. I believe that only good will come out of this, God willing, because this elected president will have to work in the interest of the people and will have to solve the people's problems.

[Announcer] We also got in touch with former prime minister Mouloud Hamrouche. He gave us his personal views on the future of the political map in the country:

[Hamrouche] It is a good turnout figure. This proves that Algeria is the most mature Third World country to exercise democracy and the democratic mechanisms. This is a very positive thing and it confirms that the democratic endeavor in Algeria was not a mistake despite the obstacles and the deviations which dragged the country into violence. Therefore, this is an honor and, God willing, this will be the first step and it will be followed by other steps to complete the democratic process that will enable the people to fully exercise their sovereignty.

[Correspondent] Mr. Mouloud Hamrouche, you have written accurate, in-depth, and sound analyses and papers. What do you think the future of the political map will be in Algeria after these elections?

[Hamrouche] I believe that the political map will remain as it is. There will only be a gradual process of change. I think that the parties which took part in the elections will take the lead now, naturally. But the fact that they will take the lead does not mean that the other parties will be excluded. No doubt, the other political trends will remain on the scene. What is important is the work which will be done after this electoral process and the good conclusions which should be drawn from this voting.

Naturally, the main question or concern is: Will we, after these elections, open new avenues to maintain the dynamism so that this dynamism remains social, democratic, and political instead of the dynamism of violence?" This is what we hope for and, God willing, he who wins these elections will learn this lesson and try to develop this dynamism so that we can come out of the impasse and concentrate our efforts on the other main problems.

[Announcer] Former Prime Minister Abdesselam Belaid also expressed his views on the subject:

[Correspondent] Mr. Belaid Abdesselam, do you expect to see new prospects, which we may describe as promising, opening up for the future of Algeria?

[Belaid] The elections are a positive operation. What we need in the country is an authority which enjoys a power base among the people. For many years the authority had no legitimacy. In order to confront the problems of the country we should have had an elected president leading the country — even if that president was elected by only 10, 15, or 20 percent of the Algerian electorate because this would have been better than having one appointed by a group. An elected president will have authority and strength which will help him confront the serious problems of the country, particularly the political crisis in which we find ourselves.

[Correspondent] This will also enable him to be free from some pressures, won't it?

[Belaid] Yes, to be free from some pressures because he will draw his strength from the people, who will support him and enable him to make major decisions.

[Correspondent] Mr. Abdesselam Belaid, what position do you expect to be taken by those who opposed the idea of elections and called for their boycott?

[Belaid] I think the lesson is clear. I mean, the people have spoken. Now that the people have had their say, those parties can only draw their own conclusions because those parties, the same parties which won the 1991 elections, thought that they owned the voters who voted for them. Algerian citizens are free and do not accept anyone who imposes their position on them. Algerian citizens listen to everyone but at the end of the day they want their position to be their own and not a position imposed by anybody else.

[Correspondent] Do we take it that you support the idea that the presidential elections will replace one legitimacy by another legitimacy?

[Belaid] There was no legitimacy. There was a somewhat de facto legitimacy.

[Correspondent] I mean replacing the historical legitimacy [of those who played an important part in the country's liberation] by a popular legitimacy.

[Belaid] That historical legitimacy ended in October 1988. I was one of a group of people who in 1988 said that the historical legitimacy ended when the authority in place in the country used weapons against the people. We had not seen that in the country between 1962 and 1988. The October 1988 events brought about the end of the historical legitimacy.

[Announcer] Former prime minister Redha Malek also expressed his views on the turnout figures and their significance. Let us listen to what he had to say:

[Malek] Given the turnout and the preliminary results, which, naturally, are not final and according to the information we have, the turnout in these first multiparty presidential elections in Algeria was huge. This is very significant and has the utmost significance because this shows that those who were opposed to the elections and who called for a boycott of these elections were mistaken. Today we can say that this huge turnout can be regarded as a victory for Algeria against political decay. The Algerians went to the polls with such enthusiasm, they went to vote with the idea and hope that the elections would take us out of this crisis. This is the idea and the dynamism which exists among the people. We must take this into account. This is a blow to terrorism and a blow to those who deal with terrorism and who called for a boycott. This is the main thing.

I have said that I was one of those who entered the presidential race. I took part in these elections because I was convinced that these elections might give the Algerian people the opportunity to express their aspirations very clearly under the current circumstances. This is the important thing.

Now, with regard to the responsibility of the voters. Let us talk about this a bit more because although the turnout was important and huge and although the voters were strong their responsibility is great.

[Correspondent] Mr. Redha Malek, with regard to the parties which boycotted the elections and those which called for a boycott, what do you think their position will be after these elections and how will they deal with the president-elect?

[Malek] I do not know what their positions are now but they adopted a position and they were opposed to these elections. Today they have seen that the people... [pauses] Let us talk objectively: The people went to the polls and voted in huge numbers. They must draw a lesson from this position expressed by the Algerian people. The Algerian people have said: Enough of terrorism and enough of this political decay! Let us come out of this crisis!

This is how I would interpret the position of the Algerian people today.

FIS Leader Calls Elections 'Illegitimate'

JN1711181095 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1625 GMT 17 Nov 95

[Interview with FIS leader Anouar Haddam by Salim Badawi; place and date not given; from "The Event" program — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Badawi] Commenting on the result of the Algerian elections, the Islamic Salvation Front, FIS, said nothing has changed since Liamine Zeroual remains the same person, before and after the elections. This position was confirmed to our program by Anouar Haddam for the FIS. We listen to Anouar Haddam:

[Haddam] As far as the FIS is concerned, the result proves that these elections were a gimmick. As far as we are concerned, they were illegitimate and unconstitutional elections, conducted by an illegitimate and unconstitutional regime. They are, therefore, rejected by the Algerian people and the effective political forces, the legitimate representatives of the Algerian people.

[Badawi] What do you think about the percentage of participation, which exceeded 70 percent?

[Haddam] The world community and the listeners undoubtedly know that these figures originate from one source only, that is the dictatorial group governing the country. Regrettably, certain political and media quarters abroad are trying to give some credibility to these elections and this constitutes a serious precedent. This means that any group of military people can at any time — and after they carry out acts of terrorism against their people — go unpunished under the pretext of false elections.

[Badawi] Does this mean you do not expect a new chapter in Algeria. And what will be your position if President Zeroual extends his hand once again to the FIS?

[Haddam] In fact nothing has changed in the tyrant state. Therefore, the, quote, president-elect, unquote, was meant to give an international legitimacy to a terrorist regime. But we — the parties that signed the national convention, the legitimate parties which represent more than 90 percent of the Algerian people — are always prepared to sit at the negotiations table with the real forces in the country within the framework of the national convention. The fact that the military clique has chosen to address the issue of presidency and the illegitimacy of the president without addressing the other sensitive issues, to which the national convention referred, confirms that this was only a maneuver.

[Badawi] If it was decided to hold legislative elections in the near future, would you participate in them?

[Haddam] As far as we are concerned, anything issued by an illegitimate regime does not concern us and it would be unfair for the Algerian people to consider these elections credible. The people have already made a free choice, twice, in local and parliamentary elections. How can you hold the people accountable now when they were asked to vote by way of terrorism.

Kebir: FIS Ready for Talks With Authorities

LD1711202795 Paris TF-1 Television Network in French 1900 GMT 17 Nov 95

[Interview with Rabeh Kebir, Islamic Salvation Front representative abroad, in Germany, by Claire Chazal, in the studio — live, in Arabic with superimposed French translation]

[Chazal] What do you think, Rabeh Kebir, of the exceptionally high turnout [in the Algerian presidential election]?

[Kebir] From our point of view, we have a number of reservations to put forward as regards the turnout figure, because — based on the information we have — we do not think the turnout exceeded 37 percent. But I have two remarks to make on the presidential election process. First of all, the Algerian people are hoping for peace. Those who took part in the election, as well as those who did not, are all hoping for peace. The second outcome of these elections — although we have, as I said, certain reservations about them — is that the Algerian people want to reach an understanding, a concord in favor of peace, such that all citizens may express themselves freely. The turnout in favor of Mr. [Said] Sadi is quite low — and he is the one who wants to eradicate the Islamists from the political arena.

[Chazal] Does that mean, Rabeh Kebir, that you are perhaps going to enter into dialogue with the new authorities?

[Kebir] For us, those who are in power following these elections are the same people who were in power in the first place, the ones [who were already] in office. We are ready to have talks with the authorities in order to contribute to the return of peace to Algeria, the return of hope to Algerians.

[Chazal] Can we then say, Rabeh Kebir, that violence is now going to cease in Algeria?

[Kebir] We can hope that there will be a peaceful solution in favor of peace and security if the authorities adopt a policy of dialogue and negotiation with the authentic political opposition.

[Chazal] Thank you very much for joining us live from Germany.

FIS Representative Comments on GIA 'Bloodshed'

AU2011121895 Berlin DIE TAGESZEITUNG in German 16 Nov 95 p 3

[Interview with Abdelkrim Ould Adda, FIS representative abroad, by Thomas Dreger; place and date not given: "The Bloodshed Must Stop"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Dreger] What solutions to the Algerian situation does the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] suggest?

[Ould Adda] We must create conditions for a peaceful settlement. We have formulated these conditions with our political allies in the National Pact of Rome. Basically, this requires a climate of liberty that will permit the population to elect its political leader. The decision cannot be made under pressure from tanks and guns.

[Dreger] In the meantime, other militant Muslim groups have been formed, such as the GIA [Armed Islamic Group]. How will the FIS handle these groups?

[Ould Adda] The current situation in Algeria arose as a result of the dictatorship and terror of the military. If the people encounter real conditions for a peaceful settlement, they will accept peace and security. An end to the bloodshed is a condition necessary for the start of genuine dialogue.

[Dreger] But the GIA is slaughtering people indiscriminately. How can the FIS stop this bloodshed? What influence do you still have on the GIA?

[Ould Adda] When the causes disappear, so will the effects. You must not overlook the fact that, in principle, there is a consensus between the Algerian people, the opposition parties, and the FIS. We believe that the FIS and the entire Algerian population want a fair political solution. He who rejects that will also be rejected by the Algerian people.

[Dreger] You say you are opposed to attacks on civilians, foreigners, women, and children. Do you agree to attacks on military people and representatives of the state?

[Ould Adda] We are not opposed to the people's defense of their basic rights — freedom, the choice of a social pattern, and political rights. Actions to topple those in power signify resistance by the people. But when civilians, women and children, foreigners, and adherents of other religions become the target, we oppose this.

[Dreger] What will an FIS-governed Algerian state look like?

[Ould Adda] We will talk about that when the time is ripe.

Opposition Calls For Dialogue To End Crisis

NC1911112895 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0930 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Algiers, 19 Nov (MENA)—Abdelhamid Mehri, secretary general of the Algerian opposition National Liberation Front [FLN], has called on Algerian President Liamine Zeroual to hold a dialogue with all political forces in the country, foremost among them being the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], to end the episodes of violence and find a real solution for the crisis that has been engulfing the country for four years.

Mehri, who heads one of the parties in the "National Charter" group that boycotted the recent elections, told a MENA correspondent in Algiers that the people's participation in the voting and their expression of joy at the election of President Zeroual send a message from the people that priority must be given to restoring peace and security to the country. He expressed his view that this message is in full harmony with how his party sees the situation; namely, that resolving the Algerian crisis must begin first with ending the episodes of violence in which victims from both sides, as he put it, pay the price.

In the first reaction by an Algerian opposition leader to the elections, Mehri supported President Zeroual's remarks during his election campaign that a solution to the Algerian crisis would come through a dialogue among all Algerians, without excluding any faction. He added that the FIS must be the first party invited for the dialogue, whether it was responsible for what has happened or part of the responsibility has been pinned on it. He noted that attempting to solve the Algerian crisis without the main party means a lack of will to resolve it.

Mehri expressed pleasure that no incidents had occurred during the elections. However, he said that he fears for the future because the cause of the violence still exists in society. He added: Reality calls upon us to view the current state of affairs, regardless of how harsh it is, as one that must be remedied, and this will only be done through a political solution. Mehri proposed a meeting between the political forces and the government for a period of 20 days or a month, following which a statement ending the violence and finding a comprehensive solution to the crisis would be announced.

Asked about his expectations for the future in light of the presidential elections, the wide popular participation in the elections, and President Zeroual's overwhelming victory despite the opposition's calls to boycott the elections, Mehri said: I am optimistic that President Zeroual will make a correct reading of the elections and get the message the voters wanted to get across; namely, that they aspire to the return of civil peace. This, he added, requires a specific policy and a change in the political method used thus far.

Mehri emphasized that ending violence in his country will only come through a political solution and a dialogue among all forces. He added: I am prepared to accept President Zeroual's invitation for a future dialogue if all parties are invited. We in the FLN have denounced violence and it is only logical for us to call on the armed groups to halt violence and abide by the constitutional and legal path, he added, noting that the crisis must be resolved politically because security measures will not halt violence. He added: If an agreement takes place between the government and the FIS without a statement from the FIS denouncing violence, this means that one of the two sides made concessions to the other.

Attack on Democracy Movement Official Reported

LD1911220495 Paris Radio France International in French 2130 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Algeria, the Movement for Democracy in Algeria led by former President Ben Bella has reported an attempted attack on Khaled Bensmail, the secretary general of the movement. The attempted attack reportedly took place yesterday, Saturday.

Democracy Movement Statement on Attack

NC2011110795 Paris AFP in English 1055 GMT 20 Nov 95

[All names as received]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Algiers, Nov 20 (AFP)—Algerian opposition leader Khaled Bensmain, head of the Movement For Democracy in Algeria (MDA), survived an assassination attempt over the weekend, his party said Monday [20 November] in a statement.

An unidentified man opened fire Saturday on Bensmain while he was visiting the house of his father, who had just died, at Theniet El Had in the Tissemsilt region, 100 kilometres (62 miles) southwest of Algiers, the statement said.

A party official told AFP that Bensmain escaped unharmed.

The MDA of former president Ahmed Ben Bella is one of eight signatories to a "national contract", signed in Rome in January, by opposition groups which backed a boycott of Thursday's presidential polls.

The coalition — which also includes the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) and Socialist Forces Front (FFS) — also wants to set up a transition government, including members of the opposition, to prepare for free elections.

Embarek Mahiou, the FFS's national finance secretary, was murdered in Algiers along with his cousin Farid on November 4.

"Those who are nostalgic for violence are benefiting from total impunity," the MDA statement said.

"The political militants cannot let themselves be taken one by one, and be eliminated physically, without denouncing the incompetence of the authorities, the only ones empowered to guarantee the defence of people and their goods," the statement said.

Meanwhile, Algerian security forces have foiled a series of attacks by the ultra-radical Armed Islamic Group (GIA) on Algeria's power utilities to disrupt the presidential elections, the independent daily EL WATAN said.

However, power supplies were sabotaged in the regions of Tiaret, Blida and Bejaia, forcing voting centres to delay their opening until around midday, the newspaper reported.

"From a reliable source, it appears that several days before November 16, GIA statements issued a call to sabotage a maximum of electrical installations throughout the territory. These were intercepted in certain towns," the newspaper said.

"The terrorists counted on gaining entry to the power stations to sabotage," said EL WATAN, adding that several arrests took place.

Thursday's presidential polls, which took place under massive army security, were marred only by several isolated attempts by armed Islamic groups.

Egypt

Reportage on Egyptian Embassy Bombing in Islamabad

Presidential Statement Condemns Bombing

NC1911131695 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1245 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear listeners, we have just received this report:

The Presidential Office has issued a statement in which President Mubarak denounced the sinful, criminal action against the Egyptian Embassy in the Pakistani capital. He said that this act, in which innocent Egyptians and Pakistanis fell, contravenes all spiritual and humanitarian values and international laws and conventions. President Mubarak condemned all forms of terrorism.

The Presidential Office's statement affirmed that religion disowns those terrorist groups who use religious slogans as a cover. It noted that these groups are part of a wave of organized international crime which makes it necessary for the world community to cooperate to confront it.

The statement stressed that the arm of law and justice will punish these people sooner or later in retribution for their shedding of innocent blood and their terrorizing of peaceable people.

President Mubarak extended his heartfelt condolences to the families of the innocent Egyptian and Pakistani victims.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif announced that President Mubarak was informed of the criminal attack on the Egyptian Embassy immediately after it happened and that he followed up the situation minute by minute and instructed the Foreign Ministry to contact the Pakistani authorities to follow up on developments.

The information minister described the bombing as a criminal act that contravenes humanitarian values and noble religious principles. He pointed out that it was carried out by hirelings and was directed against innocent Muslims.

The information minister condemned all forms of terrorism and said that this terrorism will inevitably vanish, especially because it poses a threat to life and humanity. He said that the world must cooperate to repulse it.

The information minister reported that a team of radio and television correspondents will leave for Pakistan today to follow up on developments. He said that the Egyptian media portrays the feelings of the Egyptian public and its condemnation of the criminal act that is directed against it and against every Egyptian citizen at home and abroad.

President Orders Aid to Victims' Families

NC1911184295 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1810 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 19 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has instructed Dr. Muhammad Nu'man Jalal, Egyptian ambassador to Pakistan, to provide all the necessary assistance to the families of the members of the Egyptian mission who were martyred or wounded in the explosion that occurred in Islamabad this morning.

During a telephone call with the Egyptian ambassador this evening, the president inquired about the condition of the wounded and about the necessary procedures to transport the victims' bodies and their families to Cairo.

The president instructed the ambassador to contact the presidential office directly to solve any problems that might arise.

Prime Minister Comments on 'Criminal Act'

NC1911110795 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 19 Nov 95

[Unscheduled news bulletin]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Egyptian Foreign Ministry is currently holding intensive contacts with the Pakistani authorities and the Egyptian diplomatic mission in Pakistan to get more details about the incident [against the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad]. The Egyptian Foreign Ministry has set up an operations room made up of senior Foreign Ministry officials to follow up the situation.

Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi has described the attack on the Egyptian Embassy building in Pakistan as a criminal act that has nothing to do with religious, humane, or ethical principles. He added that such acts contravene these principles. Dr. Sidqi stressed that terrorism has become an international phenomenon and that all countries must confront terrorist acts and unite to face the phenomenon of terrorism in the world.

Concluding his comment on the incident, Dr. Sidqi said that Egypt will consider sending a commission to Pakistan to take part in the investigation by the Pakistani authorities into this serious and criminal incident.

Sidqi, Ministers Discuss Bombing

NC1911162395 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1540 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 19 Nov (MENA)—Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi held a meeting today to discuss and follow up the situation after the attack on the Egyptian Embassy in the Pakistani capital Islamabad. The ministers concerned attended the meeting.

Foreign Ministry Issues Statement

NC1911115595 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic
1113 GMT 19 Nov 95

[Statement issued by the Foreign Ministry in Cairo on 19 November — read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] At 1040 today, 19 November, an ugly criminal act was perpetrated against the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad. As a result, a number of Egyptians and Pakistanis were killed and wounded.

Reports from our embassy indicate that a diplomat and three security guards were martyred in addition to a number of embassy staff members who were injured. A number of Pakistani security guards and citizens were also martyred and some were injured.

Reports from Pakistan indicate that the criminal attack targeted the embassy at the peak of the working day, which meant that a number of Pakistani citizens were in the consulate and embassy on working visits. The consulate and embassy staff were performing their political and consular duties in their offices. Hence, the number of killed and wounded was high: 59 wounded including a large number who are in critical condition and about 15 dead Pakistanis and Egyptians.

The reports confirm that the embassy was the target of a suicidal operation using a booby trapped vehicle and highly explosive grenades. Several details are being checked.

A number of the embassy compound's offices and residences were destroyed.

It has been decided to dispatch a commission to Pakistan immediately to help the embassy, follow up on the incident and investigations, and assess the losses.

While condemning this criminal action, the Foreign Ministry eulogizes the martyrs from the Egyptian Embassy staff and the Egyptian and Pakistani citizens.

Foreign Minister Musa Comments

NC1911170995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1620 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 19 Nov (MENA)—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that measures are currently being taken to secure the Egyptian embassies abroad against possible attacks and crimes, such as the criminal Islamabad incident.

In a statement today, Musa expressed Egypt's strong condemnation of criminal attacks against Egyptians and against the security of Egyptian society. He said the Egyptian people appreciate the situation of Egyptian diplomacy and Egyptian diplomats who come under attacks.

In his statement, the foreign minister eulogized with great sorrow the diplomatic martyr, Second Secretary Ahmad Numayr Ahmad Bin-Khalil, and the security guards of the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad. They are Ayman Muhammad 'Ali, Husayn Mahmud Fahmi, and Mahmud 'Abd-al-Maqsud, who were victims of the evil attack on the embassy.

Musa said a committee from the ministry will immediately travel to Islamabad to help the Egyptian ambassador with this situation and to inquire about the developments and circumstances of the incident.

Musa said it is important that the Pakistani authorities find the perpetrators of the incident. He added that these authorities are still conducting an investigation.

He noted that the Pakistani president, foreign minister, interior minister, and defense minister visited the Egyptian Embassy, offered their condolences to Egypt's ambassador on the martyrs who died in the attack, and denounced the criminal aggression.

Ambassador Details Blast Casualties

NC1911123295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1210 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Islamabad, 19 Nov (MENA)—Egypt's Ambassador in Pakistan Nu'man Jalal said that the explosion in the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad this morning occurred when a booby trapped vehicle drove into the embassy at 1000 today, Islamabad time, 0700 Cairo time. As a result, he added, four people were killed, including the second secretary, and three embassy staff members were wounded. The explosion also destroyed the embassy offices and the ambassador's residence.

In a telephone call with him, the ambassador added that more than 50 local people, Pakistani security guards and citizens, were injured and evacuated to hospitals.

He said that Pakistani Army units encircled the area soon after the explosion and noted that the investigations to identify the perpetrators began immediately.

The ambassador added that the Pakistani prime minister and a large number of Pakistani ministers and officials contacted him and expressed their deep regret over the incident. He noted that the Pakistani authorities are determined to step up security around the various embassies in the Pakistani capital.

Diplomat on Possible Cause of Explosion

NC1911124895 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1145 GMT 19 Nov 95

[Interview with Ahmad Husayn Isma'il, media counselor at the embassy in Pakistan, in Islamabad, by unidentified correspondent, in Cairo, on 19 November—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Correspondent] Mr. Isma'il: All signs so far indicate that the criminal act committed this morning is a terrorist act. We would like you to give us more information on the incident.

[Isma'il] As you mentioned, a solid object hit the embassy at approximately 1040 Pakistan time, 0740 Cairo time. Two minutes later, a huge explosion targeting the embassy building itself was heard. I hurried to the embassy and found that the front of the building and all the cars near the embassy were completely destroyed.

There is a very deep crater at the entrance to the embassy, approximately 10 meters wide, which shows the enormous explosives used and hence, the major casualties, which are approximately 14 dead....

[Correspondent, interrupting] Mr. Isma'il: We would like to clarify one point. Is this solid object a booby-trapped car, as news agencies have reported?

[Isma'il] Most likely it is, although no parts of a booby-trapped car have been found in the debris. Some individuals say that the embassy could have been hit by rockets. So far, the truth is not clear.

[Correspondent] Were there bursts of gunfire after the explosion?

[Isma'il] The initial explosion was minor and seems to have resulted from an object hitting the gate. Whether it was a car, a rocket, or gunfire that was followed by the entry of a booby-trapped car or whether it resulted from rockets fired from outside is still unclear. This is because the damage is enormous, particularly to the first and second floors and the nearby cars. It is horrible. It shows the cowardice of the perpetrators. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Could we say that this criminal act shows the bankruptcy of these Islamic groups, which are hiding behind religion, here in Cairo and in the major cities?

[Isma'il] Definitely. As you know, an Egyptian diplomat was killed in Geneva a few days ago. At the time, they [not further specified] threatened to attack Egyptian embassies abroad. I believe this is another of their dirty acts. [passage omitted]

Official Details Embassy Blast

NC1911203395 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1855 GMT 19 Nov 95

[Interview with Yahya Abu-Zayd, counselor at the Embassy in Islamabad, by unidentified correspondent on 19 November; place not given; from the "Talking Newspaper" program—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] What information is available so far on the bombing of the Egyptian Embassy in Pakistan?

[Abu-Zayd] At approximately 1100 today, a booby-trapped car stormed the embassy gate. The explosion completely destroyed the embassy building and the ambassador's residence. Thirteen people were killed, including four members of the Egyptian Embassy, and wounded 40 others, including three members of the embassy staff. Pakistani President Farooq Leghari went to the scene of the incident and Benazir Bhutto made a call. Several Pakistani cabinet ministers visited [the site] to inquire about the situation.

[Correspondent] Surely this is an ugly incident void of any human feelings or sense of religion or mercy. What was the immediate reaction after the incident, either by the Egyptians in Pakistan or by Arabs and Pakistanis?

[Abu-Zayd] It was a mean incident created by a group of people who are trying to tamper with religion or embroil it in terrorism and extremism. It was plotted by elements who have renounced patriotism, Islam, and religion.

[Correspondent] We do not want to predetermine the investigation, but generally where do the fingers of accusation point? Do you expect foreign parties to be involved?

[Abu-Zayd] Information about the booby-trapped car have not been completely gathered. Only parts of the car have remained because it contained a large amount of explosives, more than 200 kg of explosives. So the party responsible for this incident has not yet been identified.

[Correspondent] Has the Egyptian Embassy in Pakistan previously received any threats of terrorism against it?

[Abu-Zayd] This has not happened. No organization sent any threats to the Egyptian Embassy in the past.

[Correspondent] What was the Pakistani authorities' reaction and efforts to minimize losses?

[Abu-Zayd] The incident received enormous attention from the president and prime minister. All the Pakistanis here are greatly offended by this horrible incident which contradicts sound religious principles. It is a mean act rejected by every Muslim who knows Islam's teachings.

MENA Describes Embassy Explosion

*NC1911100495 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0946 GMT 19 Nov 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Islamabad, 19 Nov (MENA)—A huge explosion took place this morning at the Egyptian Embassy in the Pakistani capital. The explosion killed and injured a number of people.

Eyewitnesses said that the preliminary estimate of those killed and injured in the explosion stands at more than 20. They added that the embassy was completely destroyed and that among the dead are two Egyptian security guards, about 14 Pakistani security guards, and some Pakistani and Aghan citizens who were outside the embassy building.

Egyptian Embassy sources confirmed that Egyptian Ambassador to Pakistan Nu'man Jalal is safe and is following up the incidents and the evacuation of the wounded to hospitals.

CNN reported that the Pakistani authorities said they will study the adoption of other security measures around foreign embassies in the country in light of the explosion at the Egyptian Embassy this morning.

CNN added that the explosion took place outside the Egyptian Embassy and that the operation to remove the debris is continuing so as to save those under it and remove the bodies of those killed.

MENA Names Diplomat Killed in Bombing

NC1911121895 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1158 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 19 Nov (MENA)—MENA has learned that the Egyptian diplomat who was martyred in the bombing of the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad today was Second Secretary Ahmad Numayr. He is the son of a former ambassador and assistant foreign minister.

The martyr graduated from an architecture school in 1981 and joined the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad on 1 August 1995.

Investigations Reveal Details of Bombing

NC1911145895 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1328 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Islamabad, 19 Nov (MENA)—Investigations into the attack on the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad this morning have shown that there were two explosions.

MENA's correspondent in Islamabad has reported that a booby-trapped car stormed into the area and the car's passenger hurled an explosive device. Its detonation completely blew off the embassy gate and caused extensive damage to the facade of the compound. Two Egyptian security men and three Pakistani security personnel, one of whom was a regular policeman, were killed.

One and a half minutes after the initial explosion, the car blew up in a suicide operation, causing extensive damage to the embassy building. All the windows blew out and the roof and walls caved in, killing the embassy's second secretary Ahmad Nuwayri Ahmadayn [name as received] and an Egyptian security guard.

The number of Egyptian martyrs in the bombing has reached four out of a total of 13 martyrs. The rest are Pakistani and Afghan. Three Egyptian diplomats, a counselor and two administrative attaches, were injured. One of the attaches has undergone surgery and his condition is now stable.

Following the incident, Pakistani Army forces took control of the area and searched for any other explosives.

Pakistani Defense Minister Aftab Shaban Mirani visited the bombed building. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto telephoned the Egyptian ambassador several times to follow up on the events.

2d Diplomat Dies of Wounds From Bombing

NC1911195295 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1905 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Islamabad, 19 Nov (MENA)—Hisham 'Abd-al- Mun'im Abu-al-Wafa, diplomatic attache at the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad, died of the wounds he sustained in the criminal incident against the Egyptian Embassy this morning.

This raises the number of Egyptian victims to five, two diplomats and three security guards.

The health condition of 'Adil al-'Iraqi, administrative attache, is now stable, while the condition of Muhammad 'Uthman, administrative attache, is critical according to the doctors in charge of his treatment here.

The terrorist attack resulted in the martyrdom of Second Secretary Ahmad Numayr Ahmadayn Khalil and three Egyptian security guards and the wounding of three mission members.

Delegation Leaves for Islamabad To Investigate Bombing

NC1911181995 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1738 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 19 Nov (MENA)—A private Egyptian plane carrying a large Egyptian delegation headed by Ambassador Mustafa al-Diwani, assistant foreign minister for security affairs, left Cairo for Islamabad today. The delegation, which includes experts from various government departments, will help the Pakistani authorities with the investigation into the circumstances surrounding the bombing of the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad this morning.

Al-Diwani said that the Foreign Ministry has set up an operations room to follow up developments in the regrettable incident. He indicated that the government will give full care for those injured in the incident.

Al-Azhar, Political Parties Condemn Embassy Blast

NC2011071995 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The al-Azhar Mosque released a statement yesterday condemning the criminal act in Pakistan that martyred many innocent people. The statement condemned all terrorist and criminal acts, which run counter to heavenly laws and sound human norms. These acts show the perpetrators' bestiality and lack of humanity.

The People's Assembly and the Consultative Council also condemned the terrorist act, which shows the ugly face of terrorism that must be confronted because it contravenes the most basic human rights.

The Egyptian political parties, unions, and associations also condemned the sinful attack on the Egyptian Embassy in Pakistan.

Muslim Brotherhood Spokesman Denounces Embassy Blast

NC1911164995 Cairo MENA in English 1517 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, 19 Nov (MENA)—Ma'mun al-Hudaybi, spokesman of the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood Party described the [Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad] blast as a criminal act that cannot be recognized by any reason. Religion is innocent of such acts, he said.

Al-Hudaybi, who denied this criminal act, expressed his sorrow at the loss of innocent lives in such a bloody and dreary manner.

Visiting Libyan Official Condemns Embassy Bombing

NC1911145195 Cairo MENA in English 1402 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Nov 19 (MENA)—Libyan Secretary of Justice and Public Security Mahmud al-Hijazi denounced the explosion which rocked the Egyptian embassy in Islamabad this morning and killed a large number of people.

In statements after meeting Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, al-Hijazi said this is a criminal act which aims at striking the security and stablity of the arab region. He also underlined his country's refusal of all acts of violence and terrorism.

The Libyan official warned the European countries, which shelter terrorists, of the the danger of keeping them on their land.

Al-Hijazi said he discussed with Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid a number of topics related to the need for boosting joint Arab cooperation in the area of combatting terrorism. They also reviewed the role of the Arab Court of Justice and the Council of Arab Ministers of Justice and Interior in this respect, he said.

Papers React to 'Horrific' Embassy Blast

NC2011092395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2130 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 19 Nov (MENA)—The Egyptian newspapers have denounced and described as a criminal act the horrific explosion at the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad this morning, killing 16 and wounding scores of people.

The papers relate the details of the incident, angry reactions locally and worldwide, and the denunciation of that horrid attack by world leaders. They highlight the Pakistani president's assertion that the authorities will pursue the perpetrators and President Mubarak's condemnation of the criminal act, which contradicts all spiritual and human values.

In their editorials tomorrow, the newspapers assert that the attack against the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad, which claimed the lives of many innocent people, contradicts the tolerant teachings of Islam.

AL-AHRAM writes that the blowing up of the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad raises many issues. They all boil down to one thing: The remnants of the terrorists have started to carry out their sabotage operations against Egyptian targets and interests abroad, having been surrounded inside Egypt. The paper adds that these terrorists have lost their minds.

AL-AHRAM links the explosion at the embassy with blasts in some Arab and European countries lately; they all sought to strike at these countries' stability and peace.

The paper recalls Egypt's repeated cautioning that the remnants of terrorism would commit crimes wherever they were, against the interests of their country and the interests of the states that let them live on their territory.

AL-AKHBAR highlights the Egyptian masses' condemnation of this cowardly terrorist attack and their rejection of such mean actions, which seek only to harm Egypt and undermine its prestige.

The paper blames the powers that support terrorists for the mean, horrid criminal incident and refers to President Mubarak's repeated warnings to the countries that harbor Egyptian terrorist elements. These elements receive payment for their lowly crimes against their homeland from parties that use these cheap mercenaries who sell themselves to the devil for a handful of dollars.

The paper condemns the criminal elements who perpetrated this act under the cover of Islam, the religion that advocates peace and prohibits killing without reason.

AL-AKHBAR asserts that the attack against the Egyptian Embassy was the result of successive blows dealt by the Egyptian security services to most of the terrorist dens inside the country. This prompted this misled and unrighteous clique of criminals to look for targets outside Egypt to carry out their treacherous attack, targeting innocent Egyptians to prove they exist. The paper calls on the states that harbor these criminals to be more firm and more effective in eliminating these criminal elements.

AL-JUMHURIYAH affirms that the terrorist incidents that occurred recently in many countries prove that terrorism is an international phenomenon that is not exclusive to a specific state. It tries to hide behind religion while it actually has nothing to do with it.

The paper warns that terrorism has become a time bomb targeting stability and peace in the states that allow it to exist on their territories by failing to stand up to it firmly to eliminate it. The paper cautions that terrorism is the weapon extremists use in pursuit of power to serve their personal interests after failing to infiltrate and dominate the people.

The opposition papers affirm that the act that targeted the Egyptian Embassy in Pakistan is black terrorism that targets Egypt's leading role, stability, and prosperity.

Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri says that the attack against the Egyptian Embassy is a cowardly criminal act that reflects the state of bankruptcy and mental hollowness in which terrorism-oriented people live. He added that the incident reveals that these groups are now turning to targets abroad after failing to achieve their goals within the country. Shukri appeals to the world community to take swift and resolute steps to confront this inhuman current that kills innocent people and devours everything good.

Liberal Party leader Mustafa Kamil Murad affirms that the blow dealt to the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad targeted Egypt as a whole and its leading role in confronting terrorism.

Wafd Party leader Fu'ad Siraj-al-Din condemns the incident. He added that it makes us more determined to resist terrorism and intensify all political and security efforts to break this terrorist wave that sought to find a place abroad after the noose was tightened around it at home.

Under the title "A Horrid and Cowardly Incident," AL-WAFD chief editor affirms that terrorist groups will gain nothing except disdain and contempt from mankind and a curse from God, the angles, and all the people for blowing up the Egyptian Embassy in Pakistan. He asked, do these groups think that they will take power by committing crimes and walking over the skulls of murdered people and the remains of victims? Affirming that all they will gain from these barbaric acts of terrorism is people's hatred and renunciation. [passage omitted]

The writer affirms that the destruction of the embassy is a horrid and cowardly act and we must expect it to be repeated. However, he adds, it should not shake our confidence that terrorism will eventually be defeated and commit suicide. He said, this needs patience and determination to pursue, expose, and cut its head and tail. He calls for concerted efforts by governments, states, people, organizations, and all of mankind to resist this cursed plague until it recedes and dies out.

The newspaper AL-'ARABI, mouthpiece of the Nasirite Arab Democratic Party [NADP], condemns the horrific blast at the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad. The paper says it is a criminal act targeting innocent people. Its perpetrators used a terrorist method inconsistent with some parties' claims of clinging to the spirit and teachings of Islam. The paper says that Islam is a religion of tolerance and peace, not terrorism, violence, and killing. The NADP mourns the people's martyrs and asserts that the homeland's security is above any other consideration. It asserts that aggression against any Egyptian mission abroad is not directed against the government, but at the Egyptian people and Egypt's dignity and international standing. The paper points out that the diplomatic missions do not represent the government alone, but the entire homeland, and that the employees in missions are the sons of the homeland. The paper calls on all parties and national forces to confront such crimes and appeals to everyone to close ranks to eliminate terrorism inside and outside Egypt. It calls on Islamic countries and others to achieve this noble goal of security for everyone.

Senior writers in the Egyptian papers express their intense anger at this regrettable incident and assert that the Islamic groups that claimed responsibility are far from Islam, which renounces violence and calls for love and peace.

AL-JUMHURIYAH Chief Editor Samir Rajab said the incident is a disparate and futile attempt, because those who nipped terrorism in the bud inside Egypt can break its back abroad with the same courage and boldness. He stressed that the Egyptian people who stood up to the condemned terrorism will eliminate anyone who thinks of attacking any one of their sons abroad. He stressed the need for clear-cut international cooperation now that terrorism has become an international phenomenon, beyond the bounds of a particular country. The recent bombings in various countries, including countries in the civilized world, confirm this.

AL-'ARABI's chief editor denounces the bestial attack on the Egyptian Embassy in Pakistan, saying: I do not know what human conscience allows the killing of people and detonation of bombs. I do not know what heavenly laws allow the killing of innocent people and bloodshed. He added: "I do not know what Islam and reforms they are talking about amid the explosions and the rubble of buildings and embassies.

Mustafa Amin stresses that the bombing in Riyadh and the bombing of the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad are not local incidents; they bear foreign thumbprints. In his daily column "Idea" in AL-AKHBAR, he points out that terrorism cannot tolerate the international victories Egypt has scored, the success of international conferences, or Egypt's election to the UN Security Council.

Amin stresses that President Mubarak's escape from the assassination attempt in Addis Ababa in June was a blow that made the terrorists lose their senses. The terrorists believed that that plot would open the way for them to control most Arab and Islamic countries. The failure in Addis Ababa boomeranged, as if the bombs they prepared destroyed them.

Amin links the attack on the Egyptian Embassy in Pakistan and the recent bombing in Riyadh, saying the two incidents are similar and that the plan and the goal are the same. The crimes are not isolated; they are state crimes prepared by a state, not by individuals or gangs. He calls for identifying the state that wants to spread terrorism throughout the Middle East.

In his daily column in AL-AHRAM, Ahmad Bahjat says the bombing of the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad has provoked intense anger throughout Egyptian circles. Noting Islam's stance on terrorism and killing, he says: Clearly, God considers that the killing of one person is a crime equal to the killing of the human race. God says: "If anyone slew a person — unless it be for murder or for spreading mischief in the land — it would be as if he slew the whole people." [Koranic verse]. He stresses that Islam considers that terrorizing a Muslim and robbing him of the feeling of security are a major crime similar to the demolition of the Kaaba. He says the world is suffering terrorism, a fire that is an obstacle to civilization, stability, and progress, therefore efforts must be united to eliminate it.

Embassy in Pakistan Reportedly Received Threat

JN1911205595 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 16 Nov 95 p 21

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo—The Egyptian Foreign Ministry has held intensive contacts with several European states to review the security measures in all Egyptian embassies and diplomatic missions abroad, especially following the assassination of 'Ala'-al-Din Nazmi, the Egyptian commercial attache in at the Egyptian Embassy in Switzerland. Egypt also decided to dispatch specialized security teams to coordinate with the security agencies in European states and to set new plans to protect Egyptian interests in Europe.

Egyptian Foreign Ministry sources told AL-YAWM that urgent cables were sent to the majority of Egyptian embassies around the world asking them to tighten security measures and to warn all Egyptian diplomats to take extra precautionary measures in public places to ward off any further attempts against diplomats.

The sources also pointed out that Egyptian embassies in Pakistan, Washington, Germany, China, and France have received phone calls threatening terrorist acts in the near future. The callers also threatened retaliation against the decision to continue the trial in military courts of some of their leaders inside Egypt.

Libya

Editorial Views U.S. Military Activity in Gulf

LD2011093795 Tripoli JANA in English 0808 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, Al-Harth [November] 20, JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Reports have been featuring news of massive military exercises being conducted by America with the participation of some Western countries in the Arab region and the Arab Gulf.

Also news refer to a huge number of military forces taking part in the exercises and equipped with the most advanced military equipment ever produced by Western and American war factories including deadly weapons accompanied by huge naval presence in the area and visits by Western and American warships to some Arab ports coinciding with dubious visits by Western officials to the region turning it into depots for their equipment and military machine.

JANA's editor for Arab affairs condemned this colonialist onslaught on the Arab region and Western and American violation of Arab water and lands.

The editor pointed out 'This Western move did not come out of vacuum but it shows unequivocally that there is something being hatched against the Arab region endangering Arab national security and Arab survival as a whole.'

The editor added 'The nature, size and the huge amassing of the military forces shows that arrangements are being made against the region.'

The editor wondered about the deadly plans being prepared against the Arab nation at this critical stage.

The editor asserted that the Great Jamahariyah warned more than once about the dangerous plans being hatched against the survival of the Arab nation and its future generations.

The editor concluded his commentary by urging the masses of the Arab nation and their active forces to confront this savage colonialist onslaught and repulse the colonialist plan which will not exclude any member of the Arab nation.

Morocco

Polisario Hands Over 185 Prisoners to Red Cross

LD1911142495 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Algeria, it has been announced that the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] has handed over 185 Moroccan prisoners of war to the Red Cross International Committee.

These people were brought in from Western Sahara on board two aircraft belonging to the Zairean, U.S., and Argentine Air Forces. They were taken to the Moroccan base of (Benguedir).

This information was confirmed by the Red Cross International Committee, interviewed by our service.

UN Mission Confirms Release

LD1911213895 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The UN mission in charge of the referendum in Western Sahara confirmed this evening that Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] released 186 Moroccan prisoners of war.

The same source pointed out that the release of the Moroccan prisoners took place on 17 November in the presence of the UN High Commission for Refugees.

Minister Outlines Efforts Against Narcotics

LD1811153095 Rabat MAP in English 1312 GMT 18 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, Nov 18 (MAP) — Moroccan Interior Minister Driss Basri recently highlighted the tremendous efforts made by Morocco to eradicate cannabis culture and narco-trafficking.

The minister, who was speaking at the weekly question time at the parliament, underlined that the European interior departments hailed the efficient action carried out by Moroccan authorities to struggle against drug trafficking.

He recalled, in this regard, the setting up of a belt in northern Morocco and along the Mediterranean and Atlantic coasts to struggle against kif [kef] and by-products trafficking. The minister also recalled the working out of a vast program for the development of the northern provinces.

Morocco had asked its European partners to assist it in the implementation of this program. These partners showed understanding to the Moroccan position but did not materialize their good intentions into concrete financial assistance, Basri said.

On the anti-Moroccan campaigns staged by some European parties which accuse it of being a major drug exporting country, Basri said these campaigns are orchestrated by enemies who try to harm the kingdom whenever it is on the threshold of a decisive phase.

Sudan

Ambassador in Iran on Fighting U.S.-Led 'Scheme'

NC1811183095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1645 GMT 18 Nov 95

[Telephone interview with Ambassador in Iran, Qutb al-Mahdi, by Jihad al-'Idan in Tehran; date not given; from the "News and Reports" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-'Idan] Ambassador, it seems that there has been fierce fighting recently on the Sudanese-Ugandan border. What is actually happening there?

[Al-Mahdi] After the failure of John Garang's [Sudanese People's Liberation] Movement, they [not further identified] tried to pump some life into it and continue their conspiracies in southern Sudan. They pushed a complete armored brigade inside Sudanese territory. Uganda is only one of the tools in this scheme. As you know, the Ugandan president has recently visited Cairo, at a time when his forces were fully engaged in fighting in Sudan. He knows that while his forces entered Sudan, other forces entered Hala'ib. He knows full well that his forces will be crushed and that the conspiracies will end with his fall, God willing. He, therefore, sought help from the other enemies of Islam. We are aware of the coordination between him and some other neighboring countries, including Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Egypt. All this is an implementation of the U.S. policy announced by U.S. National Security Adviser Anthony Lake. He said the United States will fight Sudan through its neighbors. So, all these steps come as an implementation of the U.S. policy and the U.S.-Israeli scheme against Sudan.

But, God willing, the situation in the south is now under the control of the Islamic government forces. Fighting is continuing in the south. Mobilization of all sectors of the people continues, not only to confront the conspiracy in the south through Uganda, but also to protect all other fronts. We know that the target is Islam, as President al-Bashir said yesterday. These people do not want our money — we are not rich; they target our religion. We can never pay this price, and we will fight up to the last man. Praise be to God, we are able to crush these conspiracies with God's help.

[Al-'Idan] Thank you very much Dr. Qutb al-Mahdi for this useful interview.

[Al-Mahdi] Thank you.

Army Spokesman Says Fighting in South Continuing

EA1911152695 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Major General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Qadir, the Armed Forces' official spokesman, has said that fighting is still continuing and that the Armed Forces continue their (?concerted) operations against the aggressive forces in the southern theaters of operation. He confirmed that the Armed Forces suffered no losses worth mentioning. In a statement published by the newspaper AL-INQADH AL-WATANI in Khartoum this morning, Major General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Qadir said that the Armed Forces were capable of protecting all Sudanese territory and securing the country's international borders within the framework of defending the homeland. The Armed Forces' official spokesman said that the strong rush of the people to support the Armed Forces in the operational areas must be considered a real expression of the nation's anger over the aggression against Sudanese territory.

Opposition: Government Forcibly Drafting Teens

NC1811143895 Paris AFP in English 1341 GMT 18 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Nov 18 (AFP) — The Sudanese opposition based here accused on Saturday [18 November] the Khartoum government of forcibly drafting teenagers to fight in the civil war against southern guerrillas.

"Boys as young as 15 years old are being forced into the Popular Defense Forces (PDF)" — an Islamic government militia — the National Democratic Alliance, an opposition coalition, said in a statement.

"Apparently recent reversals suffered by the regime on the battlefields of south Sudan have frightened it so much it has stepped up its forcible conscription of Sudanese youth," the alliance said.

The group said "conscription is carried out by night when families are asleep. (PDF) thugs invade homes well after midnight and collect youths. Any resistance from parents is met with brute force."

"Parents whose sons are not found at home are taken to security offices and threatened with detention if they fail to produce their son within a specified period," it said.

"This desperado act comes after a wave of abductions of youths from the street, in bus stations, football fields, marriage celebrations and any gathering anywhere."

The alliance said the new measures showed the "dismal failure" of government attempts at mobilization "anchored on appeals to religious and racial sentiment."

The government army has been fighting a renewed offensive begun earlier this month by southern rebels, who claim to be approaching the south Sudan capital of Juba.

Tunisia

Ben Ali Denounces Islamabad Embassy Attack

LD1911201795 Tunis Tunis-7 Television in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the terrorist attack that targeted the Egyptian embassy in Islamabad today, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali sent two cables to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, president of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, in which his excellency expressed his profound pain and deep sorrow for the news of the terrorist attack that targeted the embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Pakistan.

The head of state stressed in the two cables his strong denunciation and condemnation of this criminal act.

His excellency the president expressed on behalf of himself, and in the name of the Tunisian Government and people, strong solidarity with Egypt and Pakistan, and sincere condolences to the families of the victims.

Kuwait

Amir Congratulates Algeria's Zeroual on Election

LD1811105495 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 18 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His highness the amir of Kuwait sent a message of congratulations to his brother Sultan of Oman Qabus Bin-Sa'id on the occasion of Oman's National Day.

The amir also sent a message of congratulations message to His Excellency Liamine Zeroual, president of the Algerian republic on the occasion of his victory in the Algerian presidential elections.

Cabinet Condemns Blast at Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad

LD1911161195 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1454 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait city, 19 November — The state of Kuwait has expressed its utter condemnation and denunciation of the explosion incident today at the building of the Egyptian embassy in Islamabad and reaffirmed its rejection of the use of violence and terrorism in all their forms. This came in a statement by the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Planning Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dakhil following a meeting of the Cabinet held under the chairmanship of His Highness the Heir Apparent and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah. Minister al-Dakhil said that "the Cabinet has followed with extreme interest and anxiety the reports received in connection with the explosion incident that led to the killing of many innocent victims." The Cabinet described the incident which led to the death of more than 15 people and the injury of 59 others as being "an abominable criminal act." Minister al-Dakhil reaffirmed "Kuwait's firm stance which rejects the use of violence and terrorism in all its forms and types." He said that "the Cabinet extends sincere condolences and sympathies to fraternal Egypt — leadership and people — and the families of the victims of this abominable crime which will not harm the status of fraternal Egypt and its customary positive role within its Arab and Islamic families and within the international community at large. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Amir Congratulates President Zeroual on Election

LD1811115295 Doha Radio Qatar in Arabic 1030 GMT 18 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, the beloved amir, sent a message of congratulations to his brother, His Excellency Liamine Zeroual, the Algerian president, on the occasion of his victory in the presidential elections in the democratic and popular Republic of Algeria.

Israeli Delegation Reportedly Arrives in Doha

Said To Sign Civil Aviation Agreement

JN1711173795 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A diplomatic source said that an official Israeli delegation arrived in Qatar today to sign an agreement to initiate an air route between the two countries. The source added that a five-man delegation from the Israeli civil aviation, led by Menahem Sharon, arrived in Doha from Amman aboard a Qatari airliner. The expected meeting will be the first of its kind between the Hebrew state and an Arab country in the Gulf, knowing that no Gulf country has official relations with Israel. [passage omitted]

Ministry Denies Agreement With Israel

JN1811150995 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1420 GMT 18 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Doha, 18 Nov (WAKH) — The State of Qatar has denied reports about a civil aviation agreement signed between Qatar and Israel.

In a statement to the QATARI NEWS AGENCY, a responsible source at the Ministry of Transport and Communications said recent reports in the media about Qatar and Israel signing a civil aviation agreement are untrue.

Jerusalem Radio Reports Memorandum Signed

TA2011060495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israel and Qatar have signed a memorandum of understanding for cooperation in the field of aviation. The two countries are discussing flights between Tel Aviv and Doha. This follows the visit to Qatar by a senior Israeli aviation delegation. A Qol Yisra'el reporter says that Qatari officials said their national carrier wants to conduct a charter flight between the two countries within the next few weeks. The official said that Saudi Arabia has agreed to permit Qatar Airways planes to overfly its territory on the way to Israel. However, Israel will condition any scheduled service between the two countries on El Al being granted flyover rights over Saudi Arabia as well.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Congratulates Algeria's Zeroual

LD1811123995 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, has sent the following message of congratulations to President Liamine Zeroual of Algeria:

Your Excellency President Liamine Zeroual of Algeria: Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you. On the occasion of your election as president of Algeria, I have the pleasure of expressing to you, on behalf of the people and government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and myself, the most sincere brotherly congratulations on the confidence accorded to you by the brotherly Algerian people to lead them and realize their hopes and aims.

On this occasion I would also like to stress the firm ties and the brotherly relations between our fraternal countries and the joint aspirations to strengthen them.

I wish your excellency good health and happiness and lasting prosperity for the Algerian people. May God look after you.

King Fahd Phones Mubarak To Express Condolences

LD1911160395 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1430 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, today telephoned his brother His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of the Arab Republic of Egypt, during which the king expressed his sincere condolences to the Egyptian president, Government, and people following the dreadful explosion today at the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan, which resulted in a number of people being killed and injured. The king expressed his denunciation and condemnation of this serious criminal act, which the Islamic shari'ah does not approve of. His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak expressed to the custodian of the two holy mosques his thanks and gratitude for the king's sincere sentiments vis-a-vis this criminal act, reaffirming that Egypt denounced and continues to denounce these terrorist operations not only in Egypt but also the world over.

Warnings Before U.S. Building Blast Reported

NC2011075795 Paris AFP in English 0731 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, Nov 20 (AFP)—The British embassy said here Monday [20 November] it had received a warning from an unknown Islamic militant group several months before last week's bombing of a US military building in Saudi Arabia.

The message was similar to one sent to the US embassy by the Islamic Movement for Change calling on American and British soldiers to leave the country by July 1995, a British embassy spokesman said.

Western diplomats said the US embassy received the threats by fax in April and June. "We have received a similar fax," according to the British spokesman who asked not to be named.

The embassy took into account the threats during a regular security review earlier in the year, he said without providing details. "We have taken extra precautions."

There are an estimated 30,000 British citizens living in Saudi Arabia, but the embassy declined to comment on Britain's military presence in the kingdom.

Britain sent thousands of troops to Saudi Arabia during the US-led military buildup to free Kuwait from Iraqi occupation in 1991 and has since taken part in allied missions to bar Iraqi aircraft from flying over southern Iraq.

The spokesman said the fax was the first and only time the embassy had heard from the Islamic Movement for Change.

Despite the threats, the US embassy did not step up protection of US buildings "because of the high level of security" in Saudi Arabia, a Western diplomat said.

The Islamic Movement for Change and another little-known group, Tigers of the Gulf, have claimed responsibility for the November 13 attack on the US building used to train the Saudi national guard.

The Egyptian opposition newspaper AL-SHA'B reported later that the "Ansar Allah" (Partisans of God) also said it carried out the attack on the US Office for the Program Manager of the Saudi Arabian National Guard.

The blast killed five Americans and one Indian and wounded up to 60 people.

Since the bombing, both the United States and Britain have warned its citizens to take extra security precautions.

Opposition Figure Says Further Blasts Expected

NC2011102995 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 14 Nov 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-SAFIR—Muhammad al-Mas'ari, spokesman for the opposition Saudi Committee in Defense of Legitimate Rights, from his exile in London, has emphasized that he is not surprised by actions such as the bombing that targeted the U.S. military mission in Riyadh, "particularly since everyone knows the nature of the Al Sa'ud regime."

In a statement to AL-SAFIR, al-Mas'ari said: "The choice of target shows a real awareness of the problem, particularly awareness of the nature of the U.S. occupation of Saudi Arabia. Everyone knows that numerous groups already declared their stance on U.S. and foreign forces in the Gulf, such as the Gulf Tigers Organization and the Islamic Movement for Change-the Jihad wing in the Arabian peninsula, which declared their responsibility for the explosion." Al-Mas'ari expects that other such acts may occur in view of the regime's enmity to citizens and Islam.

Further on al-Mas'ari Comments

NC2011113095 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 15 Nov 95 pp 1, 13

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh yesterday experienced a near-emergency situation which reflected the extent of shock caused by Monday's [13 November] explosion. [passage omitted]

In a statement entitled "Riyadh's Political Explosion," distributed last night, the opposition Saudi Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights [CDLR] said it has repeatedly warned that "incidents like these (the bombing) are to be expected because of the policy pursued by the regime in ruling the country and dealing with the people."

The CDLR said that it has "also pointed out the massive growth of hostility toward the United States after U.S. involvement in supporting the Saudi regime, deliberately covering up its crimes, and using its agentry and readiness to relinquish the country's resources has been proven."

Saudi opposition sources in London stressed to AL-SAFIR yesterday that according to information they obtained from Riyadh, the building that was bombed on Monday was a center for U.S. military intelligence. It was not for a mission training the Saudi National Guard, as reported by Riyadh, Washington, and news agencies.

CDLR spokesman Muhammad al-Mas'ari said the information stresses that the bombing targeted the U.S. military presence, not the Saudi National Guard.

Sa'd al-Faqih, CDLR second-in-command, said it is more likely that the operation was carried out by a group of Saudi youths, especially since Saudi Arabia has about 12,000 men who had fought in Afghanistan in cooperation with the Saudi intelligence. He said, they enjoy high military capabilities.

Al-Faqih said these young men are very angry with the U.S. presence in their country.

Khalid Bin-'Abd-al-Rahman al-Fawwaz, official in charge of the office of the Usamah Bin-Ladin-led "Counsel and Guidance Organization," said the name "Gulf Tigers" is strange because tigers do not live on the peninsula.

He told AL-SAFIR: Perhaps the name was intended to give the impression that the operation was carried out by a foreign party, or to distort the objectives of the operation.

Opposition sources in London were unanimous that the operation was carried out by a local group. [passage omitted]

Yemen

President Salih Condemns Egyptian Embassy Bombing

JN2011062195 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Lieutenant General President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih expressed our country's condemnation and denunciation of the spiteful act of terrorism against the Egyptian embassy in Pakistan yesterday. He said this action is a serious threat to world peace, security, and stability.

This came in a cable the president sent to his brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak yesterday in which he expressed his heartfelt condolences to the victims of this horrible incident. He stressed that our country is concerned about cooperation and support for all efforts to combat all forms of terrorism.

Husayn Kamil on Opposition Groups, Other Issues

JN1911210595 Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 17 Nov 95 pp 16-19

[First of two-part interview with General Husayn Kamil Hasan, defector and son-in-law of President Saddam Husayn, by Walid Abu-Zahr in Amman; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Abu-Zahr] Until now, the Iraqi opposition has failed to present itself as an acceptable alternative to the Iraqi regime, on Arab and international levels, and has not been able to prove its credibility. Do you believe that by leading the Iraqi opposition abroad, you will make it more effective in toppling the regime?

[Hasan] With due respect to my brothers in the Iraqi opposition, I cannot help blaming it on many issues. First of all, my leaving Iraq did not depend on the Iraqi opposition. I had enough resources and influence to work inside Iraq in full freedom, using my full capacity. The Iraqi opposition now is divided in all directions. Part of it is no longer opposition, but a spokesman of this opposition working for purely foreign powers. It has become a spy but is still calling itself the opposition.

The other part is exhausted and powerless. It does not obtain assistance from any state, and cannot support itself. It has been glued to its place trying to win support but nobody is responding to its appeal, whether states or individuals.

There is another type of opposition which has left the limelight because they have not obtained assistance from the world and because the Iraqi opposition failed to realize any change in Iraq. Some of them formed a party, and some do not exceed a few individuals. Some of them have been silent.

Now we have the opportunity. We have started opening our doors to our brothers in the opposition. [passage omitted] We are now holding dialogue with our brothers in the opposition; we do not close our doors. We will tell those who work for a foreign power: You have worked for a foreign power. We will try to convince him of the need to stop this and reconsider, making his country the basis of his work. We will welcome this. If we find out that he is plotting, that he is insisting on this plotting in the interest of a foreign power, we will be at a crossroads with him. Our firm principle is that Iraq is one and united, and that the change will be based on full freedom for the Iraqi people, their rights, their democracy, and the multiparty system and elections.

Parties that are supported by foreign powers have no means at all inside Iraq. The Iraqi people are patriotic, pan-Arab, and will not tolerate any figure or party wearing the mask of a foreign power. On the contrary, if, for one reason or another, such figure effects the change in Iraq, the people will drive him out of the country by every available means. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Zahr] Mish'an al-Juburi visited the United States and Syria recently as your envoy. What are the results of these visits?

[Hasan] We all know the importance and size of the United States, and we cannot be against it. On the contrary, we seek to explain our viewpoints, and to have excellent relations between our two countries. We want to exchange benefits and to work on the basis of mutual interests. We will not work with the United States against any Arab country, but we have relations and interests with it. Likewise, we avoid making enemies or pretending that Iraq is the same size as the United States. This animosity is unjustified, uneven, and cannot continue. We should benefit from the lessons of the past and build new relations with the United States, the West, and the Arab countries.

Al-Juburi is one of the opposition men. He is a well-known and influential tribal figure, and his tribe is a large one. The man moved actively and travelled to the United States. He asked me about the issues that can be raised in the talks there. First of all, we speak with the Americans without complexes, and we explain to them our viewpoint on our cause, and our viewpoint now concerning change, and our viewpoint concerning the stage after the change. We want our relations with the United States to be strong after the change. Many of them [the Americans] used to raise questions because the situation cannot be understood in one day by all officials in the international arena. The contacts are going on and we present our viewpoint to the Americans clearly concerning this or that subject. We did not notice any annoyance by them. On the contrary, we found that they understand our views on our Arab positions and international relations. We will not bring in colonialist countries [sentence as published] and will not make friendship that are used against the United States. This is something of the past to us.

As for Syria, it is an important Arab country for us and is Iraq's neighbor. The Iraqi opposition wanted to meet with us and asked us to dispatch al-Juburi, and we gladly sent him along with one of the opposition members to explain our position to the opposition and to the Syrian brothers. After his return, I found that there are differences on a certain subject. I personally had the belief that the Syrian brothers were working for the division of Iraq, and they through that we are working for the same purpose. What led me to this conclusion was Ahmad al-Jalabi, whose plan for the division of Iraq into states is well known, and Hasan al-Naqib, who calls for a state in central Iraq and who was present in Syria. I had the belief that Syria supports this plan. I also thought that Syrian relations with Jalal Talabani were connected with the secessionist plan. Talabani's name is involved in this plan. After the frank talk, I found that the Syrian brothers cannot be for the division of Iraq, and this pleased me much. They also understood that I cannot be for the division of Iraq. I work for Iraq's unity and for changing the regime with a democratic, free, and Arab regime that has new international relations. I was pleased to make sure that our Syrian brothers are committed to Iraq's unity. So far, I have never heard any Arab view that calls for the secession or division of Iraq. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Zahr] Some people have said that the Iraqi referendum is part of efforts made by Saddam Husayn to set the stage for Iraq's joining the new Middle East order, particularly since many people have spoken of negotiations with Israel. Is this correct? Who are holding the negotiations with Israel? Have they continued?

[Hasan] The Iraqi regime does not want to be the first or the last to enter into negotiations with Israel. It has held contacts with Israel since 1987. These negotiations have not thus far been suspended. A well-known American citizen of Iraqi descent started these contacts, which were later joined by senior Iraqi figures who were not state officials. In 1987, the war with Iran was raging. In 1988, the war was brought to a halt, and consequently the contacts subsided. But, right now, the contacts have been revitalized. [Vice President] Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf's travel to the United Nations to attend its 50th anniversary celebrations after a seven-day stay in Amman to ostensibly obtain a U.S. entry visit is part of these contacts. As a matter of fact, his travel to New York was not prompted by a desire to attend UN celebrations, but rather to negotiate with international parties which the regime has scathingly criticized. They [Iraqi officials] believe that such tactics could help soften stands. But, it remains to be said that the Baghdad regime's cards have become exposed. The Iraqi discourse has been declared bankrupt, particularly since the Iraqi regime said during the Baghdad summit that Arab states should not attack one another or use force against one another. But once the Arab leaders returned home, this regime used force against an Arab country. They believe that these tactics can yield some benefits. But their cards are now exposed.

[Abu-Zahr] Is Tariq 'Aziz involved in these contacts?

[Hasan] Tariq 'Aziz works to promote his own selfish interests. The pillars of the regime have no faith in him. He is still in power because he is a Christian, and also because Iraqi officials believe that Westerners like him. That is why they have left him to work and remain visible. But, as a matter of fact, he is utterly powerless. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Zahr] Three months have elapsed since you left Iraq, and you have made several contacts at home and abroad. Have these programs crystallized your program? What are the details of this program?

[Hasan] We are now making consultations and carrying out studies to establish a council which we will call the salvation council or the council of transformation in our country. It will not be based on denominational or ethnic considerations and will not be closed to this denomination or that ethnic group. It will be based on purely Iraqi considerations, consisting of Arabs, Kurds, Shiites, and Sunnis and all Iraqi factions and groups. This council will have a program of action and an agenda which will be announced to the world.

The council will be based on the fact that Iraq is a united and one Arab state and that the Iraqi people will have their full rights. We will avoid wars and abandon any policy to produce weapons of mass destruction. We will establish ties with the United States and we will not keep these ties secret as some politicians do. We will not be ashamed of these ties. We will also have relations with our Arab brothers and the Middle East region. The Palestinians have made their choice, and we will not raise the slogan of liberating Palestine on their behalf. The Jordanians have solved their problems and so did the Egyptians. Syria and Lebanon are proceeding on the same path and Iraq will not take the place of any of them. On the contrary, we will encourage and support them. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Zahr] I have a question which is both political and familial. How are Saddam Husayn's daughters living at this stage—I mean your wife and your sister-in-law—given the reports that the greatest shock Saddam received was the defection of his daughters. How do they stand toward their father? Haven't there been family contacts with them?

[Hasan] I do not interfere at all in the father-daughter relationship. This is a very personal matter. I have already told you that my actions were not based on personal considerations. I did not leave Iraq because of personal considerations, but for the sake of my country and its future.

It is true that my family is living away from the country and most of the contacts are cut off. No paternal or maternal uncles or aunts or relatives. Such contacts no longer exist.

My aunt came to Jordan. My uncle came to Jordan with 'Udayy, but I did not wish to see them. My other uncle came, and I received him. I did not wish to see the others because they talk emotionally and do not talk about the country and its suffering. They aim to heighten emotions, but they do not raise important questions and problems facing the Iraqi people, who are suffering the worst ordeals in their history. Therefore, I refused family visits. But I cannot separate daughter from father, daughter from mother, or sisters from brothers.

[Abu-Zahr] Does this mean that contacts exist between them?

[Hasan] No, no. There are no contacts, but spiritual and psychological connections exist.

[Abu-Zahr] Did 'Udayy's sisters see him when he came to Amman?

[Hasan] No, no. They did not want to see him, and I did not wish it. [passage omitted]

Husayn Kamil Said Forming Army To 'Invade' Baghdad

JN2011105895 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 20 Nov 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Reliable sources close to the defector Iraqi General Husayn Kamil Hasan said he is working, along with other Iraqi opposition groups, to form and train several military units to invade Baghdad. This will take place in cooperation with several Iraqi Army units which Husayn Kamil claims are ready to topple the Iraqi regime.

The sources said Gen. Husayn Kamil and his brother Saddam, who held consultations with several opposition figures abroad, have agreed with them, via envoys and not direct meetings, on the need to form a joint army that could be based in Kurdistan or one of the Arab countries neighboring Iraq. This army will be equipped with very advanced U.S. weapons, including fighter aircraft, especially since the semi-Iranian Badr forces, which invaded northern Iraq, paved the road for similar inroads on other fronts.

The sources added that Gen. Husayn Kamil told the opposition groups that he would spend all the money he took with him from Iraq on equipping the army. The army may comprise the forces of Hasan al-Naqib, Barzani, and Talabani in Kurdistan, as well as the "al-Tawwabin" force which is made up of Iraqi soldiers who have been in Iran since the Iraqi-Iranian war. The army could also include the Iraqi forces who have been in the Saudi desert since the end of the Gulf war. This is in addition to recruiting tens of thousands of Iraqi refugees in various countries. Those refugees may choose to join the army voluntarily or as mercenaries. The army will be made up of around 150,000 fighters.

Sources close to the Iraqi defector said he pledged to the Sunni, Shiite, and Kurdish opposition leaders who still refuse to meet with him that he would not seek any official post after ridding Iraq of its current regime. He told them that his utmost ambition is to be pardoned by God and the people for what he had done while in power.

The sources noted that Gen. Husyan Kamil and his brother are against the idea of turning Iraq into a federal state, despite the fact that the two brothers enjoy the full support of America, Israel, and Jordan, which openly call for a federal union in Iraq on the basis of ethnic and religious principles.

Concluding, the sources said that Gen. Husayn Kamil recently started to win the sympathy and support of Iraqi intellectuals and men of letters who are in Jordan. He held several meetings with them to explain his plans and how he envisions the future of Iraq. He also briefed them on his plan to form a higher council for salvation which includes political, religious, and tribal opposition figures. [passage omitted]

Al-Samarra'i on Husayn Kamil's Salvation Council

NC1811161595 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Staff Major General Wafiq al-Samarra'i [former intelligence chief and now opposition figure] has expressed his belief that armed struggle is the best way to save the Iraqi people. In a statement issued from Damascus, he said Saddam's regime knows only the language of force and violence. He said, it is the duty of each of us to support any national plan targeting the regime.

In his statement, issued as a comment on the formation of a higher council for the salvation of Iraq, al-Samarra'i said the mechanism of overthrowing the dictatorial regime is based on the formation of a national Iraqi leadership that escalates the psychological war against the tyrant. He added, it also coordinates its contacts with the forces inside Iraq, and carries out a series of jihad operations inside the homeland as well as military operations along the contact lines with the liberated areas of Iraq.

It should be noted that Lieutenant Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan had announced that a higher council for the salvation of Iraq from the despotism and dictatorship of Saddam Husayn would soon be established.

Military Movement Reported in East, Center

NC1811162395 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Iraqi regime is making extraordinary movements for its forces in the Hamrin mountains, which extend from eastern to central Iraq. Military vehicles have been seen transporting weapons and equipment, including heavy artillery.

It should be noted that the tyrant's regime reinforced the eastern Baghdad emergency forces as part of the security measures to confront any popular moves against the government.

Country's Involvement in Riyadh Blast Denied

JN1711175995 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 17 Nov (INA)—An official source in Baghdad today described as irresponsible the statements made by the U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia that he does not rule out Iraq's involvement in the Riyadh bombing.

The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY has learned that the ambassador told (?CNN) two days ago that his embassy had received threats from (?Islamic) groups in Saudi Arabia prior to the recent explosion in Riyadh. However, he did not take any precautionary security measures because he thought Saudi Arabia was a secure country where such incidents do not occur. This statement conforms with the announcement of the organization which claimed responsibility for the explosion and which calls itself the Tigers of the Gulf. The organization announced that it informed the U.S. Embassy in April that it would target U.S. installations and citizens in Saudi Arabia unless they leave Saudi Arabia by 1 July 1995.

The source added: The U.S. ambassador in Riyadh has leveled this accusation against Iraq in order to disavow his personal responsibility and to influence investigations by the competent Saudi authorities by fabricating such accusations against Iraq to continue the unjust blockade imposed on it.

Riyadh Blast, Accusations Against Iraq, Iran Viewed

JN1711212195 Baghdad Mother of Battles Radio in Arabic 1840 GMT 17 Nov 95

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The explosion that occurred a few days ago in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, which targeted a U.S. military mission, is an act of genuine popular resistance that rejects the presence of U.S. invasion forces in the Arab homeland. Such acts will — as stated by the Tigers of the Gulf Organization which claimed responsibility for the operation — continue until the U.S. forces leave Saudi Arabia.

What is noteworthy is that the U.S. ambassador in Riyadh tried very hard, and in an exposed manner, to accuse Iraq. He said he does not rule out Iraq's involvement in this explosion.

Regardless of the U.S. calculations behind this false allegation, the fact which Iraq has stated through an official spokesman is that such statements are irresponsible. The Iraqi source added: The attempt by the U.S. ambassador in Riyadh to level accusations against Iraq aims only at disavowing his personal responsibility and at influencing investigations.

The fact which the U.S. ambassador and his ilk realize is that their presence as occupying invaders is no longer acceptable even in the areas which they consider safe havens, such as Saudi Arabia, and that [words indistinct]. However, accusing Iraq of involvement in the explosion raises many questions and requires more than one clarification.

Observers believe that the U.S. authorities and security agencies were surprised by the blast despite the fact that the organization which claimed responsibility, threatened of this last April. This threat, however, was not then taken seriously by those in charge of the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh. Thus, observers also believe that the attempt to involve foreign forces and sides and to hold them responsible for the explosion aims to evade responsibility and reduce the effect of the domestic danger which is being felt by the Saudis in Riyadh and in other cities.

Iran denied, through a responsible source, any connection with the explosion following an attempt by the U.S. ambassador in Riyadh to hold Tehran partly responsible. The Iranian source asserted that Iran was not involved and that the ambassador's statement was baseless, noting that Zionist political reasons are behind involving Iran in the blast.

The Saudi authorities, which continue to investigate the incident have so far not announced anything related to the issue. This shows that the U.S. ambassador's attempts to involve Iraq are for purely political reasons to maintain hostility toward it and to tarnish Iraq's image in the world as an excuse to continue the siege imposed on it, particularly amid the increasing Arab and international calls for ending the sanctions.

No matter what, observers believe that involving Iraq in the blast is only a reaction to the surprise which shocked officials in Riyadh, and which made danger come to them from their own safe haven which they believed would remain so for ever.

U.S. Ambassador's Remarks on Riyadh Blast Criticized

*JN1911095395 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0800 GMT 19 Nov 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 19 Nov (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH criticized the statements made by the U.S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia following the Riyadh explosion. The ambassador did not rule out the possibility of Iraq's involvement in the incident.

In an analysis today, the paper, mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says: This ambassador forgot that two days ago he told CNN that his embassy received threats from Islamic militias in Saudi Arabia months before the recent Riyadh explosion. He, however, did not take precautionary security measures because he thought that Saudi Arabia was a safe haven where such actions do not take place.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The U.S. ambassador's remarks on receiving threats from Islamic militias agree with the announcement made by the party which claimed responsibility for the explosion. In its statement, the Tigers of the Gulf said that in April they notified the U.S. Embassy that the U.S. installations and nationals would be targeted if they did not depart Saudi Arabia by 1 July 1995.

AL-THAWRAH described the U.S. ambassador's allegations as an attempt to evade his personal responsibility because he had prior knowledge of these threats. The paper says that these accusations are considered an attempt to mislead and reassure the Saudi regime and to give an unreal image about what is taking place in Saudi Arabia and about the position of the Arab Muslim people there who reject the presence of foreign forces on Saudi territory and the Saudi policy which is subservient to the colonialist U.S. policy.

The paper asserts that the statements made by the U.S. ambassador were an exposed attempt to find new justifications to continue the blockade against the Iraqi people.

Iraqi-Vietnamese Trade Talks Open in Baghdad

*JN1911133295 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1155 GMT 19 Nov 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 19 Nov (INA)—Official Iraqi-Vietnamese talks began at the Ministry of Trade today.

The Iraqi side to the talks was led by Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih, minister of trade, whereas the Vietnamese side was led by Ho Te, minister of finance and head of the Vietnamese side in the Iraqi-Vietnamese Joint Committee.

Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih delivered a speech during the session of talks. He stressed that leader President Saddam Husayn is eager to promote and expand relations between Iraq and Vietnam and also between both friendly peoples. He voiced satisfaction with the delegation's arrival, particularly following the important historic event represented by the fact that President Saddam Husayn won the general popular referendum.

In a speech during the talks, Vietnamese Finance Minister Ho Te said that the Iraqi people will circumvent all difficulties resulting from the blockade, thanks to their steadfastness, courage, and interaction with their leadership. He also lauded the strong historic relations between Iraq and Vietnam.

During this session of talks, which was attended by the Vietnamese ambassador in Baghdad, the conferees discussed aspects of Iraqi-Vietnamese trade and economic cooperation as well as ways to promote cooperation in order to serve the interests of both countries and peoples.

Vietnamese Finance Minister Ho Te arrived in Baghdad late last night. He is leading a delegation which includes representatives from the trade and finance ministries and a number of Vietnamese companies for talks with the Iraqi side which will last several days.

Diplomats in Jordan Said Worried About Recall Order

NC1811165695 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Informed sources in Amman have stressed that tension prevails among the staff of the regime's Iraqi Embassy in Jordan. It has been reported that the regime intends to return more than 70 diplomats and administrative employees to Iraq, leaving only 20 staff members in the embassy. The Iraqi decision is in response to the Jordanian Foreign Ministry request that the number of embassy staff be reduced to 18 diplomats and employees, including the ambassador.

The sources cited three diplomats and one employee from the embassy as saying that they are not willing to return to Baghdad, and they will quit their jobs when orders for their transfer are issued.

Amman Said Keen To Host Iraqi Opposition Conference

JN1911163395 Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 20 Nov 95 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—It seems that Husayn Kamil's card was not the only or last card on which Jordan wagered concerning the future of Iraq and its political regime.

After the eclipse of the defecting Iraqi officer and after the betting on him as a substitute for President Saddam Husayn became nil or even less, the Jordanian regime began to draw Iraqi opposition leaders in preparation for convening a general conference of the opposition in Amman.

According to information obtained by AL-MUHARRIR from ranking diplomatic sources, the Jordanian Foreign Ministry made a series of intensive contacts with a number of leaders of the parties and political forces abroad to explore their views on participation in an Amman conference. Some of these leaders rejected the idea, others accepted it, while some of them demanded that Lieutenant General Husayn should not attend as a prerequisite for their attendance.

The information shows that Jordan worked to pave the way for convening the conference by trying to bridge the gap between Kurdish opposition leaders Jalal Talabani and Mas'ud Barzani. It is said that Talabani and Barzani paid secret visits to Amman, met with Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan, and did not show opposition to meeting with Husayn Kamil.

According to Arab diplomatic sources, the invitation to this conference reflects a Jordanian tendency to move the headquarters of the Iraqi opposition from London to Amman so that it will be close to Baghdad and will enable Jordan to play a greater role in directing the opposition's political decisionmaking.

The sources say Husayn Kamil is still seeking to contact some opposition parties abroad in a bid to convince them not only to deal with him but also of the importance of reading the Jordanian concept of the Iraqi question in a more comprehensive manner, especially in the wake of important meetings held between Jordan and Shiite leaders, the details of which have not yet been revealed.

Baghdad TV Carries 'Arafat Thank-You Note to Saddam

JN1911204495 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Nov 95

["Text" of thank-you cable from Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Palestinian Authority, to President Saddam Husayn in response to Saddam's congratulatory cable on the proclamation of the state of "Palestine"; date not given—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency brother President Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq: Best regards. With profound appreciation I have received your brotherly cable conveying your sincere wishes and warm congratulations on the seventh anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, the proclamation of the state of Palestine. I assure your excellency that our Palestinian people's celebration of this immortal anniversary on their national soil will bolster their faith and continued struggle to achieve their noble national aspirations and objectives toward freedom, independence, and sovereignty.

Our Palestinian people are more determined and resolved to continue their legitimate struggle to reinforce the great national achievements that have been scored since the Declaration of Independence. They want to provide all that is required to end the Israeli occupation of their territory and holy places and to restore and exercise their inalienable national rights, headed by their right to repatriation and the establishment of their independent state with holy Jerusalem, the first of the two qiblahs [direction toward which Muslims turn for prayer] and which contains the third holiest mosque, as its capital. We are confident of our militant Palestinian people's ability and deep, unswerving faith that their aspirations and objectives will be achieved. This will enable them to support their brothers and friends, led by brotherly Iraq under your leadership. Our people are proud of your country's stands and constant support for their national cause and fair struggle.

Please accept my sincerest thanks and appreciation, wishing you and your brotherly people, whose suffering under the blockade we share, all the best and continued development, prosperity, and progress under your leadership. May God grant you success, preserve you, and support you.

Please accept the sincerest sentiments of respect, appreciation, and love. With the help of God, we will remain together until we reach holy Jerusalem.

[Signed] Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee

Rabin Called 'Victim of His Own Terrorism'

JN2011094295 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 9 Nov 95 p 8

["Standpoint" column by Nawwaf Abu-al-Hayja': "The Scorpion and its Off-spring"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Why was the terrorist, Yitzhaq Rabin, murdered? Some people might think that Rabin's slaying was due to the existence of "doves and hawks" within the Zionist ranks. The murderer, Yig'al 'Amir, could have been under this delusion, making him one of the victims or tragic characters of this drama.

Rabin's slaying could also have been part of a Zionist game. Why should it not be, as long as it eventually serves the continued Zionist existence in the Arab homeland? Rabin had achieved for Zionism what even the most optimistic Zionist could have dreamed of. But the truth, which must prevail over this feverish obsession with the alleged peace, is that Rabin was not the victim of peace, but the victim of his own terrorism as an old Zionist.

It is known that the scorpion is killed by its own off-spring. Yig'al 'Amir is a natural product of the Zionist Movement, just as Rabin and Shamir and also Ben-Gurion, Peres, and Begin before that. The difference between Yizhaq Rabin and his slayer, 'Amir, is like the difference between the World Zionist Movement and the official Zionist entity called "Israel." Now, is there any difference?

The slayer thought that Rabin would give up the land of Greater Israel by his formal agreement to concede five percent of Palestine to the Palestinians. This is the delusion which Zionist diehards have repeatedly tried to instill in the minds of the simpletons. Zionism will indeed lose its justification if it concedes any part of Arab territory, because it would then lose its purport, which is essentially based on the myth that Greater Israel is sacred and that without it Jews would remain lost in the wilderness.

The lesson from the assassination here must be understood from the viewpoint that the victim had endeavored and worked for the sake of Greater Israel without spilling much Zionist blood, while the slayer wants Greater Israel even if it cost the head of the prime minister and thousands of Zionist Jews. This makes Rabin more clever and vicious. However, this does not mean that his slayer is stupid. It just means that his slayer is a straightforward, principled Zionist, if I may use the expression.

The Zionists are drowned in falsehood, terrorism, and blood. They do not want to concede, even by way of tactic, a single inch of the territory they usurped from us, the Arabs.

Raw Coconut Oil Cargo Arrives at Umm Qasr Port

JN1911143995 Baghdad INA in English 1214 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Nov 19, INA — A Norwegian ship loaded with raw coconut oil docked at the Port of Umm Qasr in the southern al-Basrah Province, Ministry of Industry and Minerals announced here on Saturday [18 November].

The oil imported for the Vegetable Oil Department to be processed and then distributed within the monthly ration system.

An official source of the ministry said the cargo was unloaded by staffers of the ministry and those of the Ports Department and the Oil Tankers Company.

Prime Minister Peres Sets Up '100-Day Team'

TA1711120595 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Nov 95 p B2

[Article by Hana Qim: "Forty Historic Minutes With Clinton"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] One of Shim'on Peres' first decisions since Rabin's assassination was to set up the "100-Day Team" once again. As he did in his first term as prime minister, Peres will set up his professional kitchen, the "100-Day Team," alongside his political kitchen containing his closest aides. In Peres' first term, the team came up with suggestions, which used to be called "the operative options" — that is, recommendations on what to do and what to say, short-term plans, and strategic plans on social, economic, and of course, peace negotiations. Deputy Chief of State Ehud Baraq went over the papers the team put together and added his observations.

Yosi Beilin, Avraham Burg, Nimrod Novik, and Ya'ir Hirschfeld are part of the new team, which has still not been given a title. The prime minister's bureau said this week that "there are no innovations in the team." Nothing is new; the team has begun working. [passage omitted]

Among the issues with which the "100-Day Team" will deal are the negotiations with Syria. Peres, who was secluded from the Syrian track by Rabin, said twice in the past two weeks that when he took over the prime minister's bureau he was surprised to discover that Rabin had dealt with matters about which he had not been informed. Did he mean negotiations with Syria? Have the negotiations really been frozen, as we were given to understand by Rabin?

We do not know what President Clinton told Peres in their 40- minute tete-a-tete following Rabin's funeral, but some members of the "100-Day Team" do know. They call that meeting "40 historic minutes." Was the focus of the conversation progress in the negotiations with Syria? [passage omitted]

Peres will seek advice not only from the "100-Day Team," but also from other close friends like public relations man Moshe Te'omim, and Charles and Edgar Bronfman. The term "close friends of Peres," contrary to "close friend of Rabin," can include almost half of Labor.

First, however, Peres must carry out several political maneuvers in order to win over a greater Knesset majority for his narrow government. He does not rule out contacts with Tzomet and the National Religious Party; he will try to have SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] sit on the fence so that it will support him in Knesset votes. He will humiliate Hayim Ramon, who waited all last week for a telephone call from Peres, but if needed, he will bring Ramon into the political maneuvering and even exploit his public speaking skills.

Peres is watching with amusement the competition between the two claiming the crown, Ehud Baraq and Hayim Ramon. The race between the two has started, but like Labor's "middle generation" — from Mikha Harish to Moshe Shahal — it is impossible to know whether Ramon and Baraq will have new competitors in the coming years and whether their fate will be like that of the pitiful "middle generation," which almost reached its peak before the old king decided to keep the crown for himself.

Agudat Yisra'el To Abstain in New Government Vote

TA1911165495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Agudat's Yisra'el's Council of Torah Sages has ordered the party's Knesset members [MK's] to abstain in the vote when the government is presented to the Knesset on Wednesday [22 November]. Our party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel reports that the contacts between Agudat Yisra'el and Labor regarding cooperation until the end of this Knesset's term will continue.

Henceforth, Agudat Yisra'el will not automatically join no-confidence votes against the government and each issue will be judged independently. Our correspondent notes that the decisions involve MK's Shapira and Verdiger, but not United Torah Jewry MK's Ravitz and Gafni.

SHAS To Abstain in New Government Vote

TA1911192195 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 19 Nov 95

[Report by party affairs correspondent Qeren Neubach]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] representatives have just left a meeting with the Labor coalition team here in the Knesset building. The SHAS representatives, who previously informed President Weizman that they plan to support the Shim'on Peres government, said this evening that they will not do so. SHAS will abstain in the Knesset vote because it was offended by the remarks made by Shulamit Aloni this weekend regarding what she termed as the Ravitzes, Der'i's, and the Schaches. SHAS will consequently not support the Peres government. [passage omitted]

Peres To Present Stand on Talks With Syria

TA1711183495 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 17 Nov 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The late Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Shim'on Peres agreed that, in return for full peace with Syria and appropriate security arrangements, Israel will withdraw to the international border on the Golan Heights. Eytan Haber, former director of the prime minister's bureau, confirmed to our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen that he knows such an agreement was made.

Peres will meet U.S. peace talks coordinator Dennis Ross on 19 November. In the meeting, Peres will present Ross with his plan for the resumption of the negotiations with the Syrians. The plan has three clauses: upgrading the level of negotiations to a senior political one; discussing all issues simultaneously, including the issue of withdrawal; and resuming the officers talks, while putting off the discussion of the ground warning stations.

Netanyahu: Rabin Stand on Golan Binding on Peres

TA1811132695 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0800 GMT 18 Nov 95

[Telephone interview with Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu by 'Adi Talmor in the Jerusalem studio; date not given; from the "In the Current Situation" program — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Talmor] Do you agree that Rabin's murder has reduced your chances of being elected prime minister?

[Netanyahu] I do not want to deal with assumptions, seeing that we are just after the mourning period and have hardly recovered from one of the greatest traumas we have ever faced....

[Talmor, interrupting] I am basing this question on the new polls.

[Netanyahu] I suggest that you refrain from reading polls that were conducted and published in the eye of the hurricane. You know that in the eye of the hurricane, compasses very often veer wildly every which way. I suggest that we wait a little.

I believe that the crucial and fundamental problems still lie ahead of us. PLO personnel are currently registering East Jerusalem Arabs in anticipation of elections to a foreign governmental body. In other words, Jerusalem is slipping away before our very eyes. I have also heard that the government plans to accelerate the negotiations with Syria, and you know that this is leading to the Golan Heights issue. I believe that for the good of Israeli democracy and its future, we must soberly and calmly reexamine the crucial issues confronting us. It is these issues, I believe, that will largely determine the public's decision.

[Talmor] You know that peace has become very in, with or without the quotation marks. It looks as though Shim'on Peres will not find it very difficult to garner a public majority for full withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Are you concerned about this possibility?

[Netanyahu] If we withdraw from the Golan Heights in exchange for a peace treaty, for a momentary achievement, we will not be able to defend Israel and maintain a state of nonbelligerency in the future. I believe that the basic situation has not changed. Do you think anything has changed in Damascus?

[Talmor] No, but the public atmosphere in Israel has changed. How do you and the Likud plan to deal with this situation?

[Netanyahu] By speaking the truth. I have no tricks up my sleeve other than to speak the truth, and I believe that the situation around us has not changed. I believe that the Syrian regime has not changed its goals. Are you asking me whether I intend to change the contents of my statements because of what has happened? The answer is that I will certainly not, seeing that the situation we are confronting has not changed. [passage omitted]

[Talmor] With regard to the Golan Heights: It was Yitzhaq Rabin who promised to put a significant withdrawal on the Golan Heights to a referendum. Do you believe that Shim'on Peres and his new government are bound to follow this approach?

[Netanyahu] Just as I believe that this government should continue to serve and that only elections should bring about a change — and, surprising as this may seem to you, I believe that because we are still confronted with all the fundamental problems, the Likud will rise to power, and you can quote me on this — so I believe that it is important that Shim'on Peres honor the unequivocal commitment made by his predecessor to put the issue to a referendum. I find it difficult to believe that he will not do so. We must put the issue of the Golan Heights to the public for a decision. No deal must be made without first receiving the public's approval.

Al-Asad Said Hoping for 'Positive Move' by Peres

TA2011104395 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 20 Nov 95 p 14

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Smadar Peri]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Syrian President al-Asad is expecting Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres to make "a positive move" in the coming week, soon after the new government lineup is determined, which would allow for the first public meeting between him and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. It has transpired that the move in question is a remark by Peres that would focus on the "price of peace" that Israel would pledge to pay the Syrians.

YEDI'OT AHARONOT has learned that senior Saudi and Egyptian diplomats have recently been working behind the scenes to encourage President al-Asad to allow an imminent, public, "high-level" meeting between Israeli and Syrian senior officials. [passage omitted]

President al-Asad made it clear to the Egyptians and Saudis he met that a high-level public meeting will take place only if Prime Minister Peres makes a "public positive move" soon after he forms his government this week. Al-Asad expects Peres to comment about the "price of peace with Syria." He is apparently referring to a message that Peres would deliver in his first speech or in an interview to non-Israeli media after he forms the new government.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal al-Sa'ud, Saudi foreign minister, and Prince Bandar Bin Sultan, Saudi ambassador to the United States and who is closely associated with King Fahd, held two secret visits to Damascus over the past several days during which they discussed the promotion of the peace process with Israel with President al-Asad.

Five days ago, in a meeting with a delegation of U.S. Jews in Riyadh, the Saudi foreign minister surprised his guests by saying: "Mark the date of our meeting in my office today. A 'positive event' will take place between Israel and Syria within three weeks."

When the delegation members met Peres and told him about this hint by Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Peres avoided explaining it. At the same time, a senior official at the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv hinted that "we know what this is about." [passage omitted]

Savir on Ross Visit, Syria, Redeployment

TA1711175895 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Nov 95

[Interview with Uri Savir, director general of the Foreign Ministry, by Shlomo Ganor "a short while ago"; place not given — recorded, in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles; translated from the Hebrew]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Ganor] Mr. Savir, Dennis Ross, head of the U.S. peace team, is arriving in Israel tomorrow. What is the purpose of the visit?

[Savir] I believe that we need to do some thinking — in the wake of the terrible tragedy that came upon us and toward the establishment of a new government in Israel — about the continuation of the peace process. We know for certain that the United States is a partner in the process. I believe that through thinking together about the currently existing potential, about ways to avoid a stalemate and to continue with determination, we could bring it to fruition. We will consider this together with our ally and with such a seasoned person as Dennis Ross.

[Ganor] So, what is the purpose of the visit?

[Savir] I do not believe there is a defined purpose or that we will know exactly where we are headed at the end of the visit, because, naturally, it is also up to the Arab side. I believe that Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres will want to hear Mr. Ross' and the U.S. Administration's ideas, and views of the various partners — the Syrians and the Palestinians — and of the regional issue. Mr. Ross, naturally, will want to hear Mr. Peres' thoughts about the future of the peace process. When President Clinton was here, he told Mr. Peres that he very much wants to cooperate fully with Israel for the promotion of the peace process. Here, we see the first step in this cooperation process, upon the establishment of the new government.

[Ganor] Did Jerusalem receive any signals from Syria about its willingness to reopen the negotiations with Israel?

[Savir] We detect a slightly more positive trend in the Syrian media; an expression of a Syrian hope for peace. I am not certain that we see a change in Syrian stands. I believe that the real test of the extent to which al-Asad is a real partner for peace is still ahead of us.

[Ganor] Does the new government have new ideas on how to restart the political process?

[Savir] New ideas can come up when there is knowledge that we have a full partner. It is impossible to hold negotiations on a very narrow track, on a single issue, on a very specific level. If there is a willingness to live in peace together, there must be a willingness to make peace together. The only way to make peace together is to discuss the whole range of issues, on the various levels — the political levels — and then sit in subcommittees. There is no way to go around the peace process, in the full meaning of the term, and reach peaceful coexistence. I believe that in the coming weeks or months, we will know whether or not such a Syrian willingness exists. If it does, we can certainly think about it. The best thing would be to think together on how we can mold totally new relations between Syria and Israel that would cater to both parties' interests and provide us with more security.

[Ganor] Is the window of opportunity vis-a-vis the Syrians still open?

[Savir] It depends on Syria. I believe that if Hafiz al-Asad is a partner for peace, Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres will most certainly be a partner for dialogue, negotiations and, I hope, a peace agreement.

[Ganor] We are one week past the evacuation of Janin. Are the preparations for the next stages of redeployment in the West Bank making progress as planned?

[Savir] Yes, I believe they are, though I believe it is not getting enough attention. We are at the very beginning of the process, but I must tell you that the level of cooperation and coordination in implementing the Oslo B agreement so far is making even better progress than we had expected. In Janin today, there is a joint Palestinian-Israeli headquarters that works around the clock; joint patrols are held; and the Palestinian police have taken their positions. At least this process — which is definitely not simple — of the Palestinian residents of Janin assuming powers through the Palestinian police and Palestinian Authority, went smoothly and pleased both sides. I hope that it will serve as a model, as we decided yesterday in the Steering and Follow-up Committee, for the continuation of the redeployment, with the next stop being Tulkarm.

[Ganor] Is Israel willing to complete the redeployment before the planned timetable?

[Savir] The aim is not redeployment, but the Palestinian elections. Yasir 'Arafat has announced that the elections will be held on 20 January. We want to help the Palestinians meet this date. To this end, the redeployment must end by 28 December in Ramallah, while completing it in Bethlehem, Nabulus, and Qalqilyah even before that. This requires vast preparations by the Palestinians, who are conducting door-to-door registration of eligible voters. Yesterday both parties had a pleasant surprise when we heard that they expect 1,200 candidates to run for the 82 seats of the Palestinian council. This is a great number, which shows there is growing interest in political life and the creation of Palestinian pluralism. I believe it is good for them, for the common interest, and for the peace process. We will certainly take every step necessary to help them meet the timetables, while guarding security and the agreement, and hoping to see the first- ever free Palestinian elections on 20 January.

[Ganor] What about the economic sphere? Do Israel and the Palestinian Authority intend to tighten cooperation for the improvement of the economic situation of the West Bank and Gaza residents?

[Savir] We want to let the Palestinians develop their economy, allow investments and joint projects to come in. It has therefore been decided — following the acting prime minister's initiative — to set up the industrial parks. Yesterday, we decided to allow Palestinian businessmen to travel between the West Bank and Gaza. We decided to set up liaison units at the crossings in order to facilitate the passage of persons associated with the donor countries' apparatus for the benefit of the investment issue. Next week we will meet, as a joint committee, on the issue of the industrial parks.

Tomorrow night we will meet with Dennis Ross in a trilateral U.S.-Israeli-Palestinian committee. All of these efforts expect to find stability through economic development. When people see that their economic situation is improving and they have more to lose, terror clearly becomes the enemy of the Palestinians. This is why the Palestinians are combating violence and terror, because today it poses a graver threat to them than to the State of Israel. Hence, we are creating common interests, regardless of the problems, opposition, and violence that, God forbid, we might still encounter. A common interest has been established for coexistence, developing the economy, and peace.

Success of Ross Visit To Be Judged by Outcome

TA1811172195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 18 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In another hour, Dennis Ross, head of the U.S. peace team, will meet with Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir and Palestinian Authority representative Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray']. The tripartite meeting, which will take place in Tel Aviv, will deal mainly with issues pertaining to economic cooperation between Israel and the autonomy.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz adds that Ross will meet with Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres tomorrow evening. A political source in Jerusalem has said that Ross' talks will be termed a success if, in their wake, it is decided to resume talks with Syria soon and on the highest possible level.

Cabinet To Form Team To Fight 'Radical' Right

TA1911114695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 19 Nov 95

[Report by moderator Karmit Gay in the Jerusalem studio and political correspondent Shlomo Raz outside the Prime Minister's Office — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Gay] The cabinet has decided to set up a special team to handle Jewish terror and the incitement and sedition by the radical right. During the cabinet meeting several ministers raised the issue of Avishay Raviv and the many reports about him. The prime minister-designate said that he will not officially react to this before the state commission of inquiry ends its work. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz is next to the Prime Minister's Office.

[Raz] Several ministers are very doubtful whether this affair can be kept subdued for the three or four months during which the Shamgar commission of inquiry into Rabin's assassination will work. Minister Ya'aqov Tzur, who was one of the ministers who raised the subject, expressed grave doubts about this, but Acting Prime Minister Peres said that there would be no official reaction before the commission of inquiry concludes its work. The prime minister elaborated on this point and expressed reservations about various comments by the ministers, dismissing them as unnecessary. Still, it is a fact that there is a huge number of reports which surely affect all systems. Let us hear Minister Amnon Rubinstein — and he is not the only one — who implores us, the journalists, the public, everybody, to rescue the Shin Bet.

[Begin Rubinstein recording] I suggest that the Shin Bet not be attacked. I say this to all my friends and to journalists too. This organization is going through very difficult times now. It has excellent people whom we should help overcome this period since they need to protect, to help us with the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment, and to foil enemies' schemes. I do not know, and let me truthfully tell you, I do not want to know either. The responsible elements and not the cabinet ministers will handle this issue. [end recording]

This was Minister Rubinstein on the Avishay Raviv affair, which is making all the headlines now. [In another report on the cabinet meeting on Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1105 GMT on 19 November, political correspondent Shlomo Raz adds that "the question marks troubling the public were also raised by cabinet members, some of whom engaged in mutual accusations as to who is responsible for all the reports on Avishay Raviv and the Shin Bet. Police Minister Moshe Shahal pointed an accusing finger at Minister Amnon Rubinstein. Sarid rose to Rubinstein's defense, accusing Shahal and the police of being behind the leaks." "There were unpleasant exchanges, culminating in Peres asking that the ministers stop making comments on these super-sensitive issues, as he defined them. It was finally agreed that the ministers refrain from talking about these issues, which are in fact under investigation by the state commission of inquiry."]

We will shortly return to Minister Rubinstein who, together with his colleague, Minister Sarid, raised a proposal of their own which was accepted and worded in an even stronger manner than initially formulated by the two. Let us note, though, that before that the cabinet approved the proposal consolidated by the justice minister to set up a special team that would supervise and coordinate the serious work against Jewish terror elements and the radical right. The team will be made up of two representatives on behalf of the chief of staff, two representatives on behalf of the police inspector general, two on behalf of the Shin Bet head, and two on behalf of the attorney general. The Shin Bet head, like the chief of staff and the police inspector general, also attended the cabinet meeting but did not say a single word throughout. This team should oversee all bodies concerned — the Israel Police, the State Attorney's Office, even the courts — to make sure that the suspects detained are brought to court without unwarranted delays, that the appropriate proceedings are launched against them, and that the verdict is implemented. The cabinet has then decided to establish a special team made up of very senior members.

[Gay] What about the other elements included in the Rubinstein-Sarid proposal, such as tighter enforcement of the Law of Return?

[Raz] Let us hear what Amnon Rubinstein himself said about this issue.

[Begin Rubinstein recording] Reference first is to outlawing such [radical right-wing] organizations and measures that will be adopted after professional opinions for dismantling them and putting an end to all their subversive activities have been received. Second, all restrictions of the Law of Return will be put into operation: namely, people who support or are members of illegal organizations will be unable to come to Israel — neither as citizens, nor as tourists, nor as returning residents or immigrants. The gates of the country will be closed to those who want to undermine it from within. Finally, also accepted was our proposal that state funds cannot feed subversive organizations that act against the state. This is a self-evident point, and we will act on this issue according to the recommendations of a ministerial committee that will be headed by Justice Minister David Liba'i. [end recording]

[Raz] It seems to me that your question, Karmit Gay, has been answered. [Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 19 November also reports on adopting strong measures against and outlawing "racist, radical right-wing organizations which harm democracy," adding comments by ministers, as follows: "Minister Moshe Shahal said that the government's test is in coolheadedness and in maintaining democratic principles and the rule of law." "Minister Sarid said that all the cabinet decisions mean that Israeli democracy will rise to crush those who raise their hand against it." "Minister Ya'ir Tzaban, who said it is not necessary to change the Law of Return but rather to abide by its very letter, said that one of our big failures involved the handling of the fanatic rabbis whose role in incitement is clearly evident. Minister Tzaban gave the clear example of Rabbi Dov Li'or as one of the instigators. Minister Efrayim Sne said that a confrontation with the radical right wing is unavoidable. We should do everything so that people such as the murderer whose aim is to torpedo the interim agreement in the West Bank will be unable to operate."]

Another thing that several ministers were quite glad to inform me: Tomorrow Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres is leaving for Brussels to sign a new agreement with the EU, and he will be replaced by Minister Moshe Shahal. Up to now, when the late Rabin or Peres were outside Israel, it was customary for Transportation Minister Qeysar to be the acting prime minister. For the first time, then — and this may be a hint for the future political plans by Prime Minister-designate Shim'on Peres — the acting Israeli prime minister will be Minister Shahal.

Paper Details Assassin's Alleged Links to Shin Bet

LD1911140795 London THE OBSERVER in English 19 Nov p 21

["World exclusive" by Shyam Bhatia in Jerusalem: "Bungling Spy Who Let Rabin Die"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The man who they call 'Smiley' in the Israeli intelligence service is searching for the best available lawyer to represent him before the government-appointed commission of inquiry begins its formal investigations today into Yitzhaq Rabin's assassination.

Like his fictional namesake immortalized by John Le Carre, Israel's Smiley is a counter intelligence specialist. But that is the only similarity. 'We named our man Smiley because he beams a lot,' one of his former colleagues said.

He will need a new nickname, as alarming details emerge about what exactly the intelligence service Shabak (formerly known as Shin Bet) knew of the plot to kill the Prime Minister.

Yigal Amir was arrested immediately after the assassination two weeks ago and since then seven other members of the fanatical group Eyal have also been arrested.

Last week Shabak accepted responsibility for Rabin's murder, and the Observer has established a series of links between the security service and the Eyal extremists.

We have established from reliable Israeli sources that Amir worked for Shabak in 1992 on a three-month assignment in Latvia. There are also reliable claims that Shabak helped fund Eyal and that several members of it were key informants.

Israel's cloak-and-dagger agencies are buzzing with speculation about which heads will roll once the committee of inquiry gets its teeth into the investigation. Some intelligence experts are willing to talk off the record about their version of what really happened.

This complicated picture emerges against a backdrop in which laxity also certainly contributed to a situation that ended with the fatal shooting of Rabin.

Smiley's real name cannot be published under Israel's military censorship regulations but he is the man in charge of Shabak's Jewish department whose sole job is to monitor Jewish extremist organisations. In the weeks to come, this 41-year old intelligence officer, a married man with children, will be asked why he ignored repeated warnings that a slim Yemeni Jew was planning to kill the Prime Minister. For reasons yet to be revealed, Smiley did not pass on this crucial information to the head of Shabak. As evidence piles up that Shabak was aware of the identity and intentions of Rabin's killer for weeks and even months in advance, fresh information has emerged that Smiley was wholly unsuitable for the senior position to which he was appointed.

Neither Shabak, nor its sister organisation Mossad, expect its senior operatives to behave like saints. Many of their key personnel seem to take their cue from James Bond films by embracing lifestyles in which womanising, gambling and heavy drinking are all part of the job. In Smiley's case this seems to be true, and there is evidence that three years ago he tried to cover up his drinking after a car accident and also that he broke company rules by recruiting his girlfriend.

To win her affections, he even placed Shabak's resources at her disposal, including an unlisted Shabak mobile telephone and a staff car, complete with siren. 'Here we have a proven liar, a drunk and an adulterer in charge of an important intelligence department,' a former Shabak official said. 'It makes me hang my head in shame that this man could also be responsible for the Prime Minister's security.

He was apparently so busy with his love affair that he could not find the time to warn the Prime Minister's bodyguards to be on the lookout for a fanatical Yemeni Jew.' With hindsight it is all too easy to pin responsibility for Rabin's murder on men such as Smiley. But one question that nags investigators is whether vital information about the killer Amir, 27, was deliberately withheld from the authorities,

Even more important is the issue of whether Amir and like minded fanatics managed to convert some senior officials inside the intelligence establishment to their cause.

Winning the sympathy of such officials is not as difficult as it may appear. Bar Illan University where Amir enrolled to study law, has for years been known as a recruiting base for both Shabak and Mossad. The students, mostly Orthodox Jews, are seen as superpatriots and their loyalty is beyond question. Regarding Amir's role in Shabak, Israeli security sources have confirmed that the killer was 'chosen' by an agency in the Prime Minister's office to teach Hebrew in Riga. Every Israeli knows that 'working' for the Prime Minister's office can also mean working for either Shabak or Mossad.

One of the mysterious agencies that functions under the umbrella of the Prime Minister's office is called 'Nativ', a Hebrew word meaning 'path'. It was created in the early 1950s by then Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion with the aim of carrying out secret operations in Soviet Union and Eastern bloc. Nativ representatives stationed at Israeli embassies assisted local Jews to escape to the West. High-level sources in Israel have confirmed that Nativ was Amir's stepping stone to Shabak.

A retired army general close to the intelligence community said that Amir did not teach Hebrew but 'worked as a security man'. The general refused to be drawn on the nature of Amir's mission, but he said that it had lasted for only three months. During his time abroad, Amir worked with a second, unnamed recruit.

It was Amir's experience abroad with Shabak, according to the general, that enabled him to penetrate the security cordon around Rabin. One of the secrets about Amir, published for the first time today, is that he used his special security ID card to bluff his way past Rabin's guards.

Other skills he learnt from his intelligence days also came in handy. In those seemingly far-off times, Smiley was in charge of the Shabak department responsible for the safety of Israeli government offices and Jewish institutions abroad.

When Amir shot Rabin, he shouted: 'It's only a blank, it's only a blank.' This is a stock tactic taught to hitmen in the intelligence services, partly to sow confusion and also to evade retaliation from their intended victim's bodyguards.

This same tactic was employed a week earlier when two Mossad agents gunned down Islamic Jihad leader Fathi Shaqaqi outside his hotel in Malta. Like Amir's attack against Rabin, they used a 9mm Beretta with hollowed out bullets to get their man.

Hints about Amir's earlier links with intelligence have filtered out to a few Israelis. One of them is Rabbi Beni Alon, the son of a widely respected Supreme Court judge, who said: 'I have heard that when Amir was abroad, he was officially hired by the secret services. I think he was hired by the Prime Minister's office, teaching was his cover.'

But Amir's experience with the intelligence world did not stop with his three months in Latvia. When he returned to Israel, where he decided to pursue a course in higher education at Bar Illan, he joined the underground group Eyal, dedicated to expelling the Palestinians from the West Bank.

Beni Alon claims Eyal was 'founded and financed' by Shabak operatives who used it to find out more about Jewish terrorism. This does not mean that Amir was acting on behalf of Shabak, even though there is growing evidence that Eyal is indeed connected to intelligence. Its head, Avishai Raviv, is expected to appear as a state witness at Amir's trial.

On Friday, security sources revealed that Raviv was a Shabak agent 'planted' among radical right-wing groups and known by the code name 'Champagne'.

Amnon Abramovitcy, one of Israel's most respected newspaper columnists with close ties to Shabak, told Israel television that the disclosure about Raviv's intelligence contacts raised three possibilities: Either he passed on the information about Amir's plans and this information was ignored, or he simply did not know, or else he betrayed his Shabak superiors by acting as a double agent.

This is the first time that the ostensibly non-political Shabak has been held responsible for the activities of a Jewish terror organisation. In the past few years, Eyal has claimed responsibility for several attacks, some fatal, against Palestinians

Questions are bound to be raised about why a Labour coalition publicly committed to making peace with the Palestinians continued to back an intelligence strategy that supported a fundamentalist Jewish group determined to destroy the peace process. More evidence of Eyal's intelligence connections is provided by a former policewoman who said that Eyal's operations chief had served with her in the Jerusalem police force.

'I am 99.9 percent (sure) that it's him,' she said. 'His real name is Eran Ajilbo and we both served together in the Jerusalem police force in 1992; it's difficult to forget his face. He was known for his extreme right-wing views. I always thought he was an Arab-hater.'

Two key members of Eyal, Amir and Raviv were the best of friends and worked together in organising anti-government demonstrations. Minutes after Amir shot Rabin, it was his friend Raviv who telephoned reporters with detailed information about the killer's background. Raviv was arrested as an accomplice, but then released without explanation. It is now evident that he has given Shabak important details about Amir and his other friends.

Shocked intelligence officials have finally accepted that their man in Latvia underwent a fundamental change after he returned home and witnessed the Israeli pullout from Gaza. This was contrary to his fiercely nationalist ideology. Still his loyalty was not suspected. When he participated in anti-Rabin demonstrations, his former Shabak controllers could not imagine that their former recruit would turn his gun against a fellow Jew, let alone the Prime Minister.

Every time a report appeared on Smiley's desk, warning of Amir's sinister intentions, he refused to take it seriously. At least two tip-offs about Amir were sent directly to Smiley. He never took appropriate action. Shabak insiders recall Smiley commenting: 'A Jew will never kill another Jew.'

Yet few Israelis are prepared to accept that it was only warped judgment that affected Shabak's perception of the threats against Rabin. The Left and the Right battle as fiercely inside the intelligence agency as they do in the rest of the country. A sizeable number of officers with left-wing sympathies believe their organisation has been hijacked by the Right.

It is certainly true that many Shabak departmental heads are strongly opposed to Israel's military withdrawal from Palestinian population centres. In private briefings these intelligence experts argue that 27 years of intelligence work in the West Bank and Gaza have been sabotaged by the government's change of policy.

One of the consequences of Rabin's peace strategy was that fewer Palestinians than ever were prepared to act as informers for Shabak At the best of times Shabak used to boast of 18,000 Palestinians on its payroll. Now less than half remain.

Until the peace process began to roll in 1992, Shabak's Jewish department concentrated exclusively on Israeli left-wingers with Palestinian links. They were deemed to pose the greatest threat to the security of the state. One of them was Mikhail Vershuvsky, a Jewish supporter of the Palestinian cause, who was arrested in 1987 and sentenced to 20 months in prison for 'providing services to an illegal Palestinian organisation'. Vershuvsky's crime was to provide a translation service for a banned Palestinian group. In those days even flying a Palestinian flag was a punishable offence. A year later Shabak arrested four Israeli Jews for belonging to a hostile organisation and making contact with the enemy. Their crime was to publish a newspaper in Hebrew and Arabic that supported the Marxist Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Perhaps the most telling comment about Shabak's political affiliations dates back to last March when Rabin appointed a new head. Mr. K, who succeeded Yaakov Perry as the head of Shabak, is an expert on right-wing Jewish terror.

His appointment provoked the resignations of six senior Shabak officials, who feared his selection was the start of a new government policy to crack down against the Right.

Mr. K, who is all too aware of the political tensions in his organisation, has taken full responsibility for the Prime Minister's murder and offered to resign. Smiley is the other scapegoat.

Rabin's successor, Shimon Peres, whose life has also been threatened, is taking no chances. His surprise visit to Shabak headquarters in Tel Aviv last week was a reminder that the acting Prime Minister remains the boss.

EYAL's Raviv Said Linked to Shin Bet

TA1811190095 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 18 Nov 95

[Police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum video report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Avishay Raviv, head of the radical right-wing movement EYAL [Irgun Yehudi Lohem], was recruited by the Shin Bet two years ago and worked against his friends on the right. His arrest last week was designed to determine whether he played a role in planning the prime minister's assassination, but this suspicion proved to be unfounded. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports:

[Begin Nussbaum recording] Avishay Raviv was recruited to work for the Shin Bet approximately two years ago. In return for the information he provided, he was promised that the Shin Bet would turn a blind eye to activities by EYAL, the radical right-wing movement which he headed, and to his remarks in the media. His Shin Bet code name was Champagne. The Shin Bet had hoped that he would help expose the demon lurking behind the thriving right-wing organizations; however, Raviv failed to deliver the goods — namely, the plan of the 'Amir brothers, Yig'al and Hagay, to assassinate Rabin. It appears that the Shin Bet was not aware of the fact that hard-line activists had begun to suspect months ago that Raviv works for the Shin Bet. [passage omitted]

Soon after Rabin was assassinated, the Shin Bet decided to arrest Raviv. It suspected that he might have had a change of heart and decided to prove himself worthy of his associates' trust and to cooperate with the 'Amir brothers in their assassination plans. Raviv was questioned for several days, but the suspicion was disproved. After his release, it transpired that he was allowed to telephone his mother while in custody. This fact only further fanned the rumors that he had cooperated with the Shin Bet. [passage omitted]

As we just said, Raviv worked for the Shin Bet but failed to deliver the goods. Shin Bet officials were certain that the missions he carried out for them would be raised and discussed during the trial of the 'Amir brothers and their associates. This is why the defense establishment decided to confirm the information and reveal the Shin Bet's cooperation with the EYAL movement. [end recording]

Details of Raviv-Shin Bet Affair Reported

TA1911195295 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 19 Nov 95

[Moshe Nussbaum video report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] We start with a report on new information regarding the cooperation between the Shin Bet and Avishay Raviv, head of the extreme right-wing EYAL [Irgun Yehudi Lohem] organization. Raviv provided the Shin Bet with information on terror plans and in exchange was allowed freedom of action and received help. For example, Raviv's close aide, who was detained during a demonstration in Jerusalem with a loaded revolver, was quickly released. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports:

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] [Nussbaum] The release of Raviv's aide indicates what kind of connection was forged between Avishay Raviv and the Shin Bet. Approximately two years ago, Raviv was entrusted by the Shin Bet with gathering information about extreme right-wing elements and uncovering plans to harm Arabs and Israeli public figures. In exchange, Raviv was promised freedom of action for EYAL as long as no human life was endangered, turning a blind eye, and giving EYAL preferential treatment. Initially it looked as though Raviv was delivering the goods: when, for example, some nine months ago he alerted the Shin Bet in time about the plan of right wing activist Dmitriy Goldin to carry out an attack against East Jerusalem Arabs using acid bottles and mercury balls. Raviv, however, failed in his main test of uncovering the murder plans of his close friend Yig'al Amir.

Senior government sources noted today that Avishay Raviv was nothing more than a collaborator, a Shin Bet informer. The sources say that the claims made today to the effect that the Shin Bet was behind the establishment and operation of EYAL are totally baseless. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 19 November includes a similar report by correspondent Nitzan Hen, in which Hen is recorded as saying: "The placards showing Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin wearing a Gestapo uniform, which were distributed during a right-wing demonstration, were personally handed to me by Avishay Raviv and two known activists from EYAL and Kakh's youth movement. The placards were later distributed in small numbers among the huge crowd."]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1900 GMT on 19 November adds: "Police sources say that the offensive placard showing Rabin as an SS member was hoisted by Kakh members. This was reported by our correspondent Yo'el Nir.

["Senior Shin Bet sources deny there is any connection between the Shin Bet and the abusive placards hoisted during right-wing demonstrations. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe notes that the Shin Bet sources reject any attempt to make such a connection.

["Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu demands a full, thorough, and exhaustive investigation into the Avishay Raviv affair, without any whitewashing. Netanyahu noted that even if only part of the details published are correct, it constitutes a danger to our democracy. Our correspondent Yo'av Ya'aqov reports the Likud chairman made these comments during a special session of the Likud bureau."]

EYAL's Raviv Denies Link With Shin Bet

TA1911082595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Avishay Raviv from EYAL [Irgun Yehudi Lohem] denies the allegation that he was a Shin Bet agent. Raviv said in a talk with our correspondent Gil Litman that there had been no attempts to recruit him for the service and that such reports are a lie.

Raviv disclaims responsibility for distributing pictures of Yitzhaq Rabin in SS uniforms during a right-wing rally about two months ago. He is certain that he will be able to prove his innocence and the absence of any connection with the Shin Bet.

Raviv agreed to speak with our correspondent although the court had prohibited him from talking to the media, according to him. He merely insisted that the interview was not to be taped.

Likud Urges Investigation of Raviv-Shin Bet Links

TA1911141195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Likud Knesset Members [MK's] Ari'el Sharon and Eliyahu Ben-Elisar are calling for a thorough investigation into whether Avishay Raviv was a Shin Bet agent, as well as into the sources of funding for the placards handed out by Raviv at the right-wing demonstration in Jerusalem's Zion Square, in which Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin was pictured in an SS uniform.

Sharon and Ben-Elisar note that the government has sharply attacked the Likud on this issue. Sharon pointed out that it is unthinkable to blame an entire political camp for the actions of a man operating on the government's behalf.

Shin Bet Denies Founding EYAL Group

TA1911060395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The head of the EYAL [Irgun Yehudi Lohem] group, Avishay Raviv, was reportedly a General Security Service [GSS] agent for the last two years. However, he categorically denies it. Raviv, who is now under house arrest at his parents' home, is forbidden to meet with reporters or to travel to the territories.

The GSS, meanwhile, said reports that it was behind the formation of EYAL are groundless. In a statement published last night, it said it will respond to the inquiry commission regarding all issues related to the assassination.

King Husayn To Visit Saudi Arabia in Early Dec

JN1911101295 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Nov 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn will pay an official visit to Saudi Arabia early next month in response to an invitation by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, an informed source said Saturday.

"The visit will be in the framework of brotherly consultations between King Husayn and King Fahd over Middle Eastern issues and bilateral relations," said the source in a statement to the Jordan Times and al-Ra'y.

Saudi Arabian Ambassador to Jordan Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Sudayri last Thursday presented his credentials to King Husayn, marking the return of relations between the two countries to normal.

The King's visit will be the first official trip by the Monarch to Saudi Arabia in more than five years and his meeting with King Fahd is expected to seal the reconciliation between Jordan and Saudi Arabia after a strain caused by the Gulf crisis of 1990-1991.

Meanwhile, unconfirmed reports said Saudi Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal was expected to visit Amman in the last week of November ahead of the King's visit to Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Ambassador Views Ties

JN1911130395 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 19 Nov 95 p 1

[Report by Nadiya Sa'd-al-Din]

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Abdallah al-Sudayri, Saudi ambassador in Amman, underscored the deep relations between Jordan and Saudi Arabia. He said the Saudi foreign minister will soon visit Amman to prepare for a meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and King Fahd, custodian of the two holy mosques.

In his first press statement following his assumption of his post as ambassador to Jordan, al-Sudayri said Saudi Arabia will renew and reactivate the previous agreements between the two sisterly countries in all areas. These, he said, include supplying Jordan with Saudi oil, granting visas to Jordanian workers, and allowing their family members to join them.

In his statement to AL-ASWAQ, al-Sudayri said that Saudi Arabia supports peace and refuses to establish any relations with Israel before the latter implements the Security Council resolutions, grants Palestinians all their rights, and makes peace with Syria and Lebanon. Normalization with Iraq, he added, is hinged on Iraq's implementation of the Security Council resolutions.

King Reportedly To Meet With Iraqi Opposition

JN2011110395 Amman AL-HADATH in Arabic 22 Nov 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Sources close to the [Jordanian] Royal Hashemite Court told AL-HADATH that his Majesty King Husayn will meet Iraqi opposition figures during his visit to London to see what they have to say on the situation in Iraq and to discuss a suitable way to rescue Iraq.

The sources said that his majesty will discuss with these Iraqi figures the question of holding a meeting of the Iraqi opposition in Amman to discuss the issue of federalism in Iraq, given that it represents an appropriate solution for extricating Iraq and the Iraqis from the tribulation that has befallen them in 1990.

The sources said that King Husayn wants the Amman meeting, if it convenes, to be successful and that his contacts are to prepare a suitable atmosphere among all the parties within the Iraqi opposition's political spectrum to render the Amman meeting a success.

These sources do not exclude the possibility that his majesty would pursue his contacts in the region, particularly with Gulf countries, to prepare the ground on a regional level for supporting the Iraqi federation plan.

The sources emphasized the importance of the contacts with Riyadh because, the sources said, without Riyadh nothing can be done about the Iraqi file.

Envoy Contacts Iraqi Oppositionists in London

MM2011110895 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 20 Nov 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Kamran Qurrah Daghi: "Jordanian Envoy Makes Contacts With Iraqi Oppositionists in London"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — A Jordanian envoy has made contacts with Iraqi opposition parties and figures in London in a mission described as "fact-finding" within the framework of King Husayn's calls on the need for changes to be made in Iraq leading to a constitutional federation based on national reconciliation among the Sunnah, the Shi'ah, and the Kurds.

Sources familiar with these contacts told AL-HAYAH yesterday that the Jordanian envoy was still in London, where he arrived last Monday, on the eve of King Husayn's arrival in the British capital on a private visit during which he will meet with Prime Minister John Major. Diplomatic sources in London have not ruled out that King Husayn could raise the Iraq issue with British officials.

Sources familiar with the Jordanian envoy's contacts in London have said that the envoy pointed out during his meetings with the oppositionists — one of which was held in the offices of the Unified Iraqi National Congress — that he would convey what he had heard to the Jordanian monarch, who is keen to listen to all opinions and views and "could receive a number of Iraqi opposition leaders in Amman at a suitable time."

The sources added that the oppositionists with whom the Jordanian envoy met "unanimously expressed their rejection of any potential role" for General Husayn Kamil, because he is "a principal partner" in the Baghdad regime's crimes. The sources said that the envoy stressed to them that Jordan is not seeking to "impose anyone on the Iraqi opposition; Amman is not responsible for Husayn Kamil and only deals with him as a guest."

The envoy was also quoted as saying that Jordan "is interested in the Iraqi people's interests and their suffering and believes that it has been able to diagnose its [Iraq's] problems better than others. Because some regional forces are seeking just a change at the top of the Iraqi regime, while others are calling for the establishment of a religious state in Iraq." The Jordanian envoy stressed that his country is calling for "a real solution to Iraq's problems on the basis of a federation, democracy, and human rights, taking account of the religious, sectarian, and ethnic makeup of the Iraqi people."

U.S. Military Aid Said To Arrive 'Soon'

JN2011112995 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 20 Nov 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Jordan will soon receive 12 F-16 aircraft used by the U.S. Army as the first batch of a package of military assistance to Jordan. U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry will soon visit Jordan to wrap up the details of the U.S. military aid to Jordan.

The U.S. Congress is soon expected to ratify $100 million in aid to Jordan within a plan to draw from the U.S. Army's surplus of weapons. Discussions are currently under way within the U.S. Administration in a bid to lower the value of the U.S. planes and the accompanying equipment.

Moreover, the U.S. Administration intends to grant Jordan the status of a "non-NATO principal ally of the United States," which will enable Jordan to receive additional assistance. Jordanian-U.S. contacts will take place in the next few weeks to specify the military aid.

In the second phase, Jordan is expected to receive Patton M60-A3 tanks from the U.S. ground forces' surplus.

The United States intends to supply Jordan with over two squadrons of F-16's as a military grant. The deal will also include the construction of suitable buildings to absorb and train air and land crews.

Pentagon sources said U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry received encouraging signals from the Congress to allocate the money required for this deal, and there is increasing understanding of the need to reinforce the military capabilities of Jordan in its capacity as a force supporting stability in the region during the era of peace.

Al-Hirawi Cables Mubarak, Algeria's Zeroual

NC2011121995 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has cabled congratulations to Algerian President Liamine Zeroual on his reelection as president of Algeria. He wished him success in his efforts to achieve security, stability, and the well-being of the fraternal Algerian people.

President al-Hirawi also sent a cable of condolences to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and denounced the bombing of the Egyptian Embassy in Pakistan.

Al-Hariri Rejects Mideast Development Bank

NC1811072595 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 18 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has stated that if peace is established in the region, Lebanon will be the center of the economic and cultural conflict in the coming stage. He reiterated Lebanon's rejection of the proposed Middle East development bank, adding that Lebanon and the region do not need this bank. He added: If there is a political decision to help the region, this could be attained through the World Bank, the European Investment Bank, or the specialized Arab banks.

Prime Minister al-Hariri Leaves for Argentina

NC1811175895 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 18 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Leading a ministerial delegation, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri left Beirut for Argentina today on an official visit. He will hold talks with Argentine President Carlos Menem on economic cooperation between the two countries.

Israeli Planes Shell Areas in South

NC1911182495 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The hilly areas of Sujud, al-Rayhan, the Nab' al-Tasah basin, and Jabal al-Rafi' in Iqlim al-Tuffah have been under intensive Israeli artillery bombardment since 1600 today.

Israeli warplanes overflew al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah at 1030 today, conducting mock raids and drawing antiaircraft fire from Lebanese Army positions.

Concerning the ongoing naval blockade of the fishermen's ports in the south, the enemy's navy detained the fishing boat Elham One at dawn today. Two fishermen, Husayn 'Umays and Muhammad Safiyy-al- Din, were on board and are now in Israeli custody.

Over the past two days, the occupation forces also detained the fishing boat Abu Ilyas, which they released this morning. Last week they searched four merchant ships which had sailed from European ports and were on their way to Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Israelis Free 2 Fishermen, Define Fishing Areas

NC2011092795 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli navy released fishermen Muhammad Safiy-al-Din and Husayn 'Amaysi at 1830 yesterday. They were detained yesterday morning while fishing off the Tyre coast. Along with the two men, the Israeli navy sent a map defining the region where fishing is allowed — a 1-km area off Tyre's northern beaches.

Elsewhere, the Israeli occupation forces shelled the area around Jabal al-Rafi', Sujud, Qilya, and the town of Kafr Tibnit.

Diplomatic Ties Established With South Africa

NC1711180595 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a joint statement, Lebanon and South Africa announced the establishment of diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level. The statement underlined the two countries' desire to strengthen the ties of friendship and bolster their cooperation to benefit the two countries' common interests.

Al-Shar' Discusses Peace Process, U.S. Role

NC2011080795 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has stressed that Lebanon rejects incomplete peace deals. He said Israel is ignoring Security Council Resolution 425. Asserting that Syria refuses to negotiate on behalf of Lebanon, al-Shar' revealed that Israel has made many attempts in this regard. He praised Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, who brings political experience to the negotiations.

Accusing Israel of obstructing peace, the Syrian foreign minister said Israel proposed a formula that Lebanon cannot accept because it ignores Resolution 425. He said Syria will be happy, satisfied if Israel accepts withdrawing its Army from southern Lebanon in return for mutual security guarantees with Lebanon, preventing each side from carrying out any military action from and against the territory of the other.

Al-Shar' said: We do not object to negotiating the elements of peace if the issue of withdrawal is decisively resolved. He added: Peres has no choice but to accept an early warning system from the air.

The Syrian foreign minister noted America's interest in supporting the trend of peace and the extraordinary importance of the U.S. presence in the negotiations. He said the United States' role as a fair mediator is necessary. The United States and Israel are allies, he said, but U.S. mediation also offers guarantees concerning the essence of the negotiations and Israel's commitment to its pledges. [In its headlines, the radio says that al-Shar' gave his statement to today's issue of the Lebanese newspaper AL-SAFIR]

Press Discusses Ross's Tour, Peace Talks

JN1911091095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0555 GMT 19 Nov 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "Celebrating the Corrective Movement's Anniversary on the Pan-Arab Level," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says in its editorial: The warm feelings of love and loyalty which our masses expressed to leader al-Asad while spontaneously celebrating the Corrective Movement's silver jubilee were coupled with political positions uttered by everyone. These positions stressed the sound Arab Syrian policy on the peace process.

AL-BA'TH points to the congratulatory cables sent to the nation's leader from various parts of the Arab Homeland and from world capitals. It says: these cables expressed pride in, and appreciation for, the steadfast Syrian position which defends the pan-Arab rights and adheres to the constants of a just and comprehensive solution. In such a solution there will be no room for sellout, negligence, or defeatism.

AL-BA'TH adds: Amid the celebrations of the Corrective Movement's anniversary held by our faithful masses, and with the continued expression of their absolute rallying around the leadership of struggling President Hafiz al-Asad, and also in view of their deep cohesion with the march of construction, development, and victory there has been renewed talk about the exertion of efforts to activate the peace process in the region.

Concluding, the paper says: Syria, which stressed that a just and comprehensive peace is its strategic option, still adheres to its constants and principles which are based on international legitimacy and which are committed to regaining all usurped rights. This commitment only expresses the aspirations and conscience of a nation. These aspirations were clearly expressed by the masses while celebrating the Corrective Movement's anniversary with awareness and conviction. This anniversary was the feast of the Arab masses and their sincere leader Hafiz al-Asad.

In its editorial, the newspaper TISHRIN discusses the peace process in the region and the current regional tour by Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator of the peace process. The paper says: Day after day, the Israelis assert that peace with Syria means achieving a comprehensive peace in the region. This fact is not a new one, but announcing it under the current stalemate and obstruction of the peace process on the Syrian track and at a time when Dennis Ross has arrived in Israel for talks with Israeli officials is another confirmation that it is impossible to circumvent the Syrian role if peace is to be achieved and if the peace process is to realize its sought objectives.

TISHRIN notes that peace with Syria must be just, comprehensive, and solid and that the Syrian peace endeavors adhere to the will of the international legitimacy and to the components and pillars of a just and comprehensive solution. By saying that peace is its strategic option, Syria is sincere in its positions and trends based on achieving peace in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy and the Madrid conference formula. This formula emphasizes that full Israeli withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines is the only key to achieve a just and comprehensive peace.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: The road to peace requires Israel to abandon its obstructive proposals and its insurmountable obstacles which impeded the peace process. Peace needs practical positions on the ground, beginning with full Israeli commitment to returning the Golan to

Syria as well as with positively, constructively, clearly, and courageously addressing the components and requirements of making a real, just, and comprehensive peace without maneuvering.

Discussing the same subject, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says in an article: Amid the talk about a new round of U.S. efforts to promote the peace process, senior Israeli officials have deliberately voiced some optimism about the possibility of achieving progress on the Syrian track. They also talked about Israel's readiness to pay the price for peace with Syria, which is the withdrawal from the Golan.

AL-THAWRAH adds: No doubt, if Israel couples words with deeds, there will be room for optimism. This is because Syria did not set conditions for peace apart from implementing the relevant Security Council resolutions and the commitment to the land-for-peace equation which was the substance of the U.S. initiative.

The paper continues: Once Israel accepts these resolutions and commits itself to implementing them, there can be talk about a genuine and tangible progress in the peace process which will then proceed toward its sought objective in terms of achieving a just and comprehensive peace.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The Israeli officials are trying to demonstrate the threats posed by partial settlements, incomplete peace, and feeble agreements. Israel should thus reconsider its calculations in accordance with a realistic, historic, and geographic vision. It will then realize that it is impossible to achieve peace while keeping the occupation and usurping rights. This is because the substance of peace is justice. Justice cannot be achieved without full Israeli withdrawal. Peace is comprehensive in nature, so it cannot be comprehensive if it does not include Syria and Lebanon. The most important basis for peace is that the factors of conflict should be removed. This is emphasized once again.

AL-THAWRAH continues: The ball is now in the Israeli court. This is because Israel is the party that is occupying Arab territories, so it should withdraw from them in compliance with the will of the international community and in response to the bases of peace. Hence, Israel is demanded more than ever to change its proposals, so they will be in harmony with its propagandistic words. Israel's future behavior will indicate whether it has actually decided to seek a just and comprehensive peace.

Khaddam Comments on Amman Summit, Peace Talks

JN2011073095 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 20 Nov 95

[Italicized passages are recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Within the framework of the Syrian week organized by Radio Monte Carlo on the 25th anniversary of the Corrective Movement, which was led by President al-Asad in Syria, colleagues Dr. Nabil Sabbagh and Thana' al-Imam conducted a detailed interview with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam in which he spoke about the current Arab situation, negotiations with Israel, the background of tension with Jordan, dimensions of understanding with Iran, Syrian-Lebanese relations, and the Syrian stand toward Iraq and Iraq's territorial integrity. Here are excerpts of the interview:

Answering a question on the reasons behind Syria's boycott of the Amman and Casablanca summits and its participation in the coming Barcelona summit, 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam said: *The Casablanca summit and the Barcelona [as heard] summit were two Zionist summits. The objective of these two summits was to normalize relations with Israel, to recognize Israel's legitimacy as part of the region, and to open up the region to it. We opposed the Casablanca and Amman summits because, as I have said, the objective was to guarantee the implementation of the Zionist plan of building a new Middle East. However, the objectives of the Barcelona summit are different. The side which called for the summit is the EU. The objective of the EU is to establish relations with the Mediterranean states, particularly the Arab states. In other words, its objective is to find an appropriate place for Europe in the Arab homeland in terms of cooperation and relations.*

Regarding Syria's stand toward Israel's request to upgrade representation within the framework of negotiations on the Syrian-Israeli track, the Syrian vice president said: *First, Syria cares about the terms of reference and the framework of the peace process. At the same time, Israel seeks to drag the Arab sides to talks outside the framework of the terms of reference and the Madrid conference. This is why Syria adheres to the frameworks and terms of reference of the peace process. Despite this, regarding the level of representation, two meetings were held between the two countries' chiefs of staff. This is not a technical level, but a political level. In fact, it is a high political level. During the two meetings, no agreement was reached on a single serious issue. So, the issue is not that of a level, but it is related to the Israeli stand. Does Israel really want to establish peace based on international legitimacy—an equitable [mutakafi'] and a* *balanced [mutawazin] peace which brings stability and security to the region?*

Answering a question on Syria's stand toward Iraq, Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam said: *We have strongly supported Iraq's territorial integrity. The Iraqi people's suffering is a source of concern for all sides. The Iraqi people are not responsible for any decision made in Baghdad by the Iraqi Government. Undoubtedly, our concern must urge all Arabs to look for ways to reconcile the Iraqi citizen's suffering with the existing political differences among some Arab states and the Iraqi Government.*

Defense Minister Comments on Peace Process

JN1811211095 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 18 Nov 95

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] As part of our Armed Forces' celebrations on the 25th anniversary of the glorious Corrective Movement under the patronage of President Hafiz al-Asad, commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, a graduation ceremony was held this morning for a new group of students of the War College and the leading engineers. Lieutenant General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief, deputy prime minister, and defense minister deputized for President al-Asad. [passage omitted]

Lt. Col. Mustafa Talas delivered a speech on this occasion. [passage omitted]

Speaking about the peace process in the region, Talas noted the obstacles created by Israel to obstruct implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy, as well as Israel's attempts to undermine the foundations of a just and comprehensive peace in order to maintain tension in the region. He said Israel tirelessly seeks to achieve an incomplete peace through distorted agreements and partial solutions that enable it to tighten its grip on and control the resources of our people and nation.

Lt. Gen. Talas said Syria, represented in its leader struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, continues to assert its genuine and constant stance that insists on implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy and embracing a just formula of land for peace. He said Syria, which still acts within the framework of its principled constants, would not accept anything that prejudices its rights, security, and full sovereignty over its territory.

He added that Syria views peace as a need for everyone. Syria, however, is not concerned with solutions that do not bring about a full withdrawal. It will not accept an incomplete settlement. Syria, as it is clear to everyone, does not follow the suit of others in issues relating to national and pan-Arab rights and the destiny of the nation. [passage omitted]

Press: 'Peace Can Be Achieved in a Very Short Time'

JN2011081395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0557 GMT 20 Nov 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Commenting on the peace process, AL-BA'TH says: Syria has repeatedly asserted that it is serious about making the peace process achieve its goals and that a just and comprehensive peace can be achieved in a very short time if Israel meets the requirements and conditions of this peace.

The newspaper adds: Syria called for achieving peace in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy to rid the region of tension and to achieve security, peace, and stability. It is clear, however, that Israel has so far not been convinced that its policy — which is based on procrastination, maneuvering, disregard for the rights of others, and circumvention of the foundations and principles of a just and comprehensive peace — is the cause of instability in the region.

AL-BA'TH goes on: Had Israel declared clearly and specifically its commitment to the implementation of the requirements and conditions of true peace, the situation in the region would definitely have been different today.

The newspaper speaks about separate and partial agreements. Daily events show that incomplete solutions do not achieve the peace which the world is working for. Syria, therefore, rejects partial and unilateral solutions, because such solutions do not promote security, stability, and peace in the region. Syria always calls for establishing a just and comprehensive peace. For this to be achieved, the necessary conditions must be met.

AL-BA'TH concludes: It is high time for the Israeli leadership to realize that its policy on the peace process with Syria will do it no good. This is because Syria has a specific, irreversible strategy, represented in the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy which call for full withdrawal from the Golan to the 4 June 1967 line and from southern Lebanon.

TISHRIN also comments on the peace process, saying that the principles of a just solution are well known. Syria wants to regain its territory. It has repeatedly said that it is ready to meet the requirements of the peace process on the condition that Israel withdraw its forces from the Golan to the 4 June 1967 lines. Syria also said that it rejects any presence of the occupation on its territory, even if this presence is symbolic. Syria further agreed to equitable and reciprocal security arrangements on both sides of the June lines. The purpose of this is to eliminate Israel's fears, even though Syria is fully convinced that a just and honorable peace is the best guarantee of security and the basis of stability and security in the region.

TISHRIN asserts that Syria's conditions do not conflict with the resolutions of international legitimacy — quite the opposite. Syria is not demanding anything more than its territory. Security Council resolutions do not permit the occupation of the territory of others by force or changing the identity of this territory.

The newspaper says advancing the peace process on the Syrian- Israeli track does not require a great deal of thinking. The Golan has been Syrian territory since time immemorial. It is the right and duty of Syria to regain its occupied territory. Israel should adhere to the principles of international law and the resolutions of the Security Council. All that the peace process needs is an Israeli position that is in harmony with the requirements of peace. This position should include a commitment to full withdrawal and returning the occupied land to its people and owners. Peace cannot be built on injustice, oppression, and the displacement of the people who own the land. Peace can only be established on justice and right.

TISHRIN concludes: Israeli officials claim that Syria sets preconditions that do not have any foundation. Syria's conditions are the essence of the Security Council resolutions and the principles of the Madrid conference. Everybody knows that Syria will never submit to blackmail. Nor will it ever relinquish one inch of its territory or one of its rights. There can be no peace without restoration of the land in full and preserving dignity.

Afghanistan

UN Envoy Says Rabbani Agrees To Transfer Power

BK1711143295 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mahmoud Mestiri, the UN special emissary on Afghanistan, told a news conference in Islamabad today [as heard] that the Afghan president has agreed to transfer power to a 28-member council representing warring groups. He informed a news conference in Islamabad yesterday that President Borhanoddin Rabbani had approved the list of members that was submitted to him a couple of days ago. The UN representative said the list was also sent to the Taleban leaders and they raised some objections. He said General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam, who has control over several provinces in northern Afghanistan, has not yet approved the list.

Taleban Reportedly Rejects UN Power Transfer Plan

BK1711121695 Hong Kong AFP in English 1204 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD, Nov 17 (AFP) — The Taleban religious militia besieging Kabul turned down Friday [17 November] the proposal by UN special envoy Mahmoud Mestiri for transfer of power from President Borhanoddin Rabbani's administration to a 28-member council.

"This formula is unacceptable as it protects the Kabul regime," Taleban spokesman Maulvi Masoom said.

It would only "add fuel to the fire of war," Massom told AFP on telephone from Quetta in southwestern Pakistan. He repeated the Taleban demand that Rabbani quit unconditionally.

"Mestiri appears to be toeing the line of Rabbani," Massom said, adding only the Taleban were "competent and capable" to establish peace and a true Islamic system in Afghanistan.

He said two other Afghan parties, Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] of Younus Khales and Harakat Inquilab of Mohammad Nabi Mohammad, had rejected the Mestiri formula.

No reaction was received yet from the powerful Uzbek militia leader General Abdol Rashid Dostam and the Hezb-E Eslami of former premier Golboddin Hekmatyar.

Mestiri told a news conference here Rabbani had agreed to transfer power to a council of 28 representing various warring factions.

The UN envoy said the list was given to the Taleban and that their response was awaited.

Masoom said Mestiri was told of the Taleban rejection in Qandahar, headquarters of the movement in southern Afghanistan, on Thursday.

The UN envoy is due to leave here for New York on November 26. His last peace attempt failed in February when Rabbani, whose term had expired in December, refused to hand over power.

In March, forces loyal to Rabbani foiled the first Taleban bid to take over Kabul, but the militia again advanced to the fringes of the capital in October after seizing the key area of Herat in western Afghanistan.

Iran recognizes the Rabbani-led government in Kabul while Pakistan says its legitimacy has run out. Islamabad is said to back the Taleban.

Dostam, Khalili Factions Reject UN Peace Plan

LD1911152895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pashto 1230 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] General Abdorrashid Dostam's National Movement of Afghanistan and Abdol Karim Khalili's faction have rejected Mahmoud Mestiri's new plan for the restoration of peace and the transfer of power in Afghanistan. According to a report by IRNA from Kabul, both groups, which are members of the opposition High Coordination Council, called the new UN plan, which called for 28 members from all involved Afghan parties and neutral persons to assume power, impractical and said the plan had weak points. A member of the National Movement said the plan only met the Afghan president's demands and that it had ignored other parties' viewpoints.

Rejecting the plan, Khalili's faction said that while representatives of eight regions had been introduced in the Mestiri plan, the Hazara region as a separate zone had been ignored.

Mestiri announced on 16 November a 28-member list to whom power should be transferred. Borhanoddin Rabbani's government has accepted the plan.

UNESCO Urged To Condemn Taleban Rocket Attacks

LD1811201095 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has sent a note to UNESCO in Paris about the Taleban's rocket attacks, which have resulted in the death of a number of artists and students. The note says: UNESCO might know that recently the hireling Taleban group started rocket attacks on the residential areas of Kabul with the backing of their foreign supporters, namely Pakistan, contrary to their false claims of not firing rockets into residential areas. As a result of the rocket attacks of those enemies of knowledge and culture, eight film actors were killed at Qais Studios, while they were shooting a film, and five students in Tolo House, while they were studying for a higher education enrollment examination.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan condemns the savage act by the Talebans and asks UNESCO, which is the only cultural organization of the United Nations, to condemn this act of the Taleban, and by using its influence to request from Pakistan as a supporter of the group to refrain from such criminal acts in order that the Afghan nation, especially the young generation, pursue their educational affairs in complete peace.

Taleban Offense Reportedly Advances Towards Kabul

Attacks in 'Two-Pronged' Offensive

BK1811072295 Hong Kong AFP in English
0654 GMT 18 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Nov 18 AFP — The Taleban religious militia launched a two-pronged offensive overnight against the government forces defending the besieged Afghan capital Kabul, a Taleban spokesman said Saturday [18 November].

"Our forces went into action from east and south of Kabul and the fighting was still continuing" a Taleban spokesman, Mulla Malang, said in Islamabad.

There was no immediate independent confirmation of what Malang described as a "major" offensive.

The Taleban fighters were "advancing," the spokesman said, adding that the details of the attack on the two fronts were awaited.

The Taleban or students of religion, who have established control of a large area since their emergence from Koranic schools nearly a year ago, have rejected a UN-proposed transfer of power in Kabul to a 28-man council.

UN Special Envoy Mahmoud Mestiri, a former Tunisian foreign minister, unveiled the composition of the council here Thursday, saying Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani had accepted the list.

A Taleban official, Malvi Masoom, said in Pakistan Friday the plan was unacceptable because it "protects" the Kabul regime and that it would "add fuel to the fire of war" in Afghanistan.

Masoom reiterated that Rabbani should resign unconditionally, asserting that only Taleban were "competent and capable" to establish peace and Islamic law in the country.

Advances Frontline East of Kabul

BK1811125895 Hong Kong AFP in English
1240 GMT 18 Nov 95

[Report by Marc Lavine]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KABUL, Nov 18 (AFP) — The Islamic Taleban militia have lauched a major attack on government troops near Kabul in a bid to broaden their siege of the Afghan capital, defence officials said here Saturday [18 November].

About 1,000 Taleban fighters attacked the government forces 30 kilometers (19 miles) southeast of the capital using tanks, missiles, artillery and rockets, and captured "some ground" as well as several state positions in the area, they said.

Late Saturday, Afghan Islamic Press (AIP), a mojahedin information agency based in Pakistan with wireless contacts inside Afghanistan, said the Taleban had taken at least 15 villages during the fighting since Friday.

AIP said the militia had advanced by about 10 kilometers (six miles) and the new frontline now was at Botkhak, east of Kabul. A counter-offensive by government troops Saturday morning failed to push the attackers back, it added.

Earlier, a Taleban official in Pakistan said a two-pronged attack was launched overnight. "Our forces went into action from east and south of Kabul and the fighting was still continuing" Mulla Malang said, claiming the Taleban were "advancing."

The Kabul officials said heavy fighting had continued in the area since the initial Taleban push, while forces loyal to President Borhanoddin Rabbani mounted a counter-offensive early Saturday — which included a series of aerial bombing raids — in an attempt to win back some of the lost territory.

"Intense fighting is underway to the east of the city and the Taleban have lost many men as the government troops were in defence positions and were therefore better protected," a defence ministry official said.

He said the Taleban fighters were attempting to extend one of the three frontlines hemming in the city to the south, and to push round to the east of Kabul in a bid to make the besieged city more vulnerable.

The "rebels" want to rid the east of the city of government control and also push back the opposition

Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party], who are encamped 50 kilometers (31 miles) from Kabul, and who also want to bring down the government and take power for themselves, he said.

The black-turbaned religious fighters — who are attempting to topple the Kabul governmnet and impose Islamic law on the whole of Afghanistan — had attacked the southeastern flank of the city three times in the first 24 hours of the "bitter" battle, the defence sources said.

The official said however that government troops had prevented the so-called "religious students" from achieving their goal.

No figures were immediately available for casualties on either side, but the officials said the Taleban dead and wounded far outnumbered those of the government.

The Taleban, who have been encamped around Kabul for the past month, rose up from the Koranic schools of southern Afghanistan last year, and have since won control of large parts of the country and have upset the former balance of power.

They are demanding that Rabbani step down and hand over power to the Islamic fighters, but the president has refused to resign until a ceasefire is in place in their war-torn country and until there is an end to "foreign interference" here.

The government has accused Pakistan of backing and supllying the rebels with arms and logistical support, a charge Islamabad has denied.

The Taleban have rejected a UN-proposed transfer of power in Kabul to a 28-man council.

UN special envoy Mahmoud Mestiri, a former Tunisian foreign minister, unveiled the composition of the council here Thursday, saying Rabbani had accepted the list.

A Taleban official, Malvi Masoom, said in Pakistan Friday the plan was unacceptable because it "protects" the Kabul regime and that it would "add fuel to the fire of war" in Afghanistan.

Masoom reiterated that Rabbani should resign unconditionally, asserting that only Taleban were "competent and capable" to establish peace and Islamic law in the country.

Says 100 Rabbani Troops Captured

*BK1811163595 Hong Kong AFP in English
1633 GMT 18 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD, Nov 18 (AFP) — A spokesman for the Afghan Taleban militia here said late Saturday [18 November] they had captured some 100 government troops in two days of fighting near Kabul.

Mullah Malang said the Taleban had made advances on the Afghan capital and had crossed some of the strategic ridges overlooking the city by early Saturday after launching a "major" offensive on two fronts from the east and south.

The Taleban official did not provide any casualty figures but said fighting had subsided and that the Islamic student militia would soon resume the offensive.

The Taleban claim could not be indpendently confirmed.

Government oficials earlier Saturday said forces loyal to President Borhanoddin Rabbani had repulsed a massive attack by the militia.

The Afghan Islamic Press, a Pakistan-based Afghan information agency with wireless contacts inside Afghanistan, said the Taleban had gained some 10 kilometers (six miles) in fighting east of Kabul.

The movement is demanding the immediate ouster of Rabbani and has refused a UN plan to transfer presidential power to a council made up of 28 Afghan faction representatives.

The Taleban, who have been encamped around Kabul for the past month, rose up from the Koranic schools of southern Afghanistan last year, and have since won control of large parts of the country and have upset the former balance of power here by overrunning both government- and opposition-held areas.

Government Said To 'Beat Off' Taleban Offensive

*BK1911104295 Hong Kong AFP in English
1029 GMT 19 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BAND-I-GHAZI, Afghanistan, Nov 19 (AFP) - Afghan state troops and the Taleban forces traded heavy missile, artillery and rocket fire east of Kabul on Sunday [19 November], as the government beat off a major rival militia bid to tighten their siege of the city.

The government fired constant barrages of Soviet-made BM 21 missiles, rockets and tank rounds at the Taleban — who were dug in seven kilometers (4. 3 miles) south of this frontline position 25 kilometers (15 miles) southeast of Kabul.

The Afghan air force also dropped cluster bombs onto the Taleban positions as part of the government counter-offensive following Thursday's massive Taleban attack on the eastern flank of Kabul.

The Islamic militia deployed 1,000 men, up to 20 tanks, and fired volleys of missiles and rockets at state soldiers, top military commanders said.

The move was aimed at cutting round to the east of Kabul in a bid to gain a military and logistical stranglehold on the beleaguered government of President Borhannodin Rabbani by broadening their month-old siege of Kabul, defence officials said.

The Taleban religious fighters Sunday returned the government salvoes in fire fights which lasted through the night, as the battle entered its fourth straight day, military leaders said.

The sound of barrages from heavy weapons being unleashed, dust and frantic military activity dominated the government front-lines.

Nearby however, farmers ploughed their fields using medieval equipment in this land weary from 16 years of war.

The commander-in-chief of government operation, General Momen, said from his front-line post that the battle had turned in his favour following the initial Taleban surprise attack.

"It has been a tough battle following one of the biggest Taleban offensives near Kabul, but we are now forcing them to withdraw totally from all positions they have occupied over the past days," he told AFP.

The defence ministry and military commanders say the rebels seized eight kilometers (five miles) of territory in their initial onslaught, but added that all but two kilometers (mile) was won back early Saturday.

"They caught us off guard at first because they infiltrated our lines with spies, but we soon got reinforcements and managed to push them out of almost the entire area they had captured," a senior government commander on the front, General Bismillah said.

"The enemy is still trying to resist but is weakening and is slowly withdrawing," he added.

The battle Sunday was aimed at gaining control of the hills around the last rebel-held part of the area near the district of Chakari, the southernmost position targetted in the latest offensive, and the furthest from the capital, commanders said.

The defence ministry said presidential troops had overrun two important Taleban positions near Chakari late Saturday and early Sunday, capturing a range of weapons, tanks and vehicles.

Taleban sources in neighbouring Pakistan Saturday claimed the rebels made a massive 10-kilometer (six-mile) advance towards Kabul, capturing a string of villages leading up to the strategically crucial eastern town of Pul-i-Charkhi.

But the village of Butkhak — eight kilometers from Pul-i-Charkhi — which the Taleban sources had claimed was under rebel control, was Sunday firmly in government hands and out of range even of rebel artillery.

Had the Taleban claims been true, defence ministry sources here said, it would have been "a disaster" for the government.

They added that 24 Taleban were killed and 27 injured in the latest battle, while five government troopers were wounded.

The Taleban, who have been besieging Kabul on three major fronts since October, have vowed to topple Rabbani's three-year-old government and to install Islamic law across the country.

Rabbani: Government Forces Able To Defend Kabul

LD1811121095 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani, in an exclusive interview with a Central News Unit correspondent in Kabul, has described the situation in Afghanistan. Regarding the capability of the government force to confront the Taleban, the Afghan president said: Afghan government forces have the ability to defend Kabul and have inflicted heavy casualties on the Taleban so far. He also accused Pakistan of supporting the Taleban and added: Such interference will disrupt relations between the two countries.

Replying to a question on how to settle the Afghan crisis, the Afghan president said: There are no problems which cannot be resolved at the negotiating table, but there are several things that we insist upon. First, foreign intervention in state affairs must cease. Then a cease-fire must be established, and, third, conditions must be brought about that would be conducive to the implementation of the free and independent will of the people so that the people themselves can freely choose their own representatives and thereby enact their sovereignty.

Asked about his assessment of Iran's role in a settlement of the Afghan crisis and the establishment of peace in Afghanistan, Borhanoddin Rabbani said: Iran has started a peaceful move with its concerned efforts and by contacting the fighting groups in Afghanistan in order to establish security and stability. I personally consider this to be a historic, Islamic, and humanitarian stance and thank the Islamic Republic of Iran's authorities. Undoubtedly their efforts for establishing peace and stability in Afghanistan will have a most positive effect on the minds and consciences of the Afghan people.

Government Forces Claim Heavy Defeat of Taleban

LD1911172095 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Taleban have been heavily defeated to the southeast of Kabul. During today's fighting three Taleban tanks and two BM40 sets were destroyed. According to BAKHTAR reporters, who have visited the forward lines of the battlefield, fighting has continued around the villages of Chakari and Qala-e Malang today. The Islamic army forces pushed back Benazir Bhutto's Taleban at a location 8 km southeast of Kabul. The areas of Band-e Ghazi, Khord-Kabul, Chakari, and Khak-e Jabar and the surrounding villages are under the control of the Islamic sovereignty. Fighting has intensified in those areas when the Taleban mounted an offensive against the positions of the mojahedin two days ago. In the course of the two-day battle, scores of Taleban were killed or injured. The dead bodies of some of them are lying on the battlefield.

Islamic government planes made several bombing sorties against the Taleban positions and concentration sites. No information has been received about casualties.

Commanders Momen, Amanollah, and Eng Afzal and other mojahedin are fighting and defending the areas under their control. The Islamic army forces' strong morale serves as a guarantor of their victory. A jihadi commander in Khord-Kabul told our correspondent that the heavy losses inflicted on the Taleban have forced them to forget about capturing Kabul. He said: We are ready to defend our country in all circumstances.

Taleban Denies Government Troops Seizing Positions

BK1911130395 Hong Kong AFP in English 1244 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD, Nov 19 (AFP) — A spokesman for the Taleban militia Sunday [19 November] denied that troops loyal to Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani had pushed them from positions they had occupied over the past few days.

Rabbani troops tried to capture the Taleban positions but their two offensives were "repulsed," Mohammed Afghani told AFP from the southwestern Pakistani city of Quetta.

He said the Taleban were firmly in control of at least seven new positions they seized near Kabul from the government troops in two days of fighting on Friday and Saturday.

He reiterated that the militia of the Islamic students had crossed some of the hills overlooking Kabul, including the Butkhak ridges near the strategically vital Pul-i-Charkhi town in the eastern fringes of the besieged Afghan capital.

"We have also captured some areas near the city's civilian airport," he said. But he admitted that Pul-i-Charkhi town was still in the hands of government forces.

Earlier, a government commander in Kabul had said that a major Taleban offensive had been repulsed and "we are now forcing them to withdraw totally from all positions they have occupied over the past days."

"The enemy is still trying to resist but is weakening and is slowly withdrawing," a senior government commander General Bismillah said.

Mohammed Afghani rejected the claim as government propaganda. He said the Taleban were holding their positions and "consolidating their gains."

The Taleban have captured about 100 government troops and also collecting the arms booty, he added.

Taleban Jets Said To Bomb Residential Area in Kabul

BK2011095095 Hong Kong AFP in English 0946 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KABUL, Nov 20 (AFP) — At least eight civilians were killed and 16 injured when a Taleban militia jet bombed a residential area in central Kabul Monday [20 November], hospital and army sources said.

The Taleban aircraft dropped two 500 kilogram (1,100 pound) bombs on the Shahrenow area of the besieged Afghan capital hitting six houses, witnesses and military officials said.

India

Sri Lanka's LTTE Reportedly Threatens To Kill Rao

BK1911115595 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Andhra Pradesh Government [in India] has issued a maximum security alert following a threat from the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] to kill Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao. The prime minister is to visit his home state this morning. He will inaugurate a Satya Sai Baba drinking water project in Anantapur. Over 5,000 security personnel have been deployed for his visit, in addition to the prime minister's special protection unit.

Meanwhile, the Sri Lankan Government's 25-million-rupee offer for information leading to LTTE Leader Velupillai Prabhakaran's capture has begun to produce results. Tamil Nadu police say they have been able to locate several suspected Tiger hideouts since the reward was increased last week.

Sri Lankan Prime Minister Arrives for Treatment

BK2011090195 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Sri Lankan prime minister, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, arrived in Thiruvananthapuram [Kerala] today on a private visit. She is to undergo ayurvedic treatment [Indian medicinal system].

Rao Comments on U.S. Arms to Pakistan, Nuclear Plans

BK2011102995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister has suggested an objective criteria for the expansion of the UN Security Council to make it more effective and representative. In an interview to a New York weekly, Mr. Narasimha Rao said that criteria should include a country's standing in international relations and its commitment to the promotion of UN principles. He added that its participation in various activities of the world body should also be taken into account. He said India merits favorable consideration for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council due to these factors.

Asked to comment on the American decision to supply arms worth $360 million to Pakistan, the prime minister said his government has noted the qualitative change that India's security environment has undergone as a result of the development. But he clarified that the arms supply to Pakistan is not relative to India's nuclear program, which is entirely peaceful.

Al-Faran Statement Warns 1 Hostage 'Very Sick'

BK1711124695 Hong Kong AFP in English 1227 GMT 17 Nov 95

[Report by Surinder Oberoi]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] SRINAGAR, India, Nov 17 (AFP) — A Muslim separatist group holding four Western tourists in Kashmir warned Friday [17 November] that one of the hostages was very sick and near death.

"One of the foreigners is very sick and could die at any time," Al-Faran said in a 17-line statement in Urdu delivered to news agencies here.

"The foreigner's relatives have been told to reach Srinagar (the Kashmir summer capital) immediately to recover the body if he dies," the group said.

Al-Faran said the Indian government would be to blame if the hostage died. "All responsibility will rest with the government," it said.

"The government has been fore-warned many times previously and has not paid heed to our demands," the group said. "The government of India is misleading the world through false propaganda."

Al-Faran militants kidnapped Britons Paul Wells, 23, and Keith Mangan, 33, American Donald Hutchings, 42, and German Dirk Hasert, 26, in early July while they were trekking in the Kashmir Himalayas.

The statement, which resembled previous communiques from the kidnappers, did not identify which hostage is ill or say how his relatives had been contacted.

Previous reports have stated that the American Hutchings was in poor health.

Asked about the statement, a Kashmir government spokesman, Kul Bhushan Jindiyal, urged the kidnappers to free the sick hostage and the others.

"They should be guided by humanitarian considerations and set free the ill foreigner," he said. "What will they gain by depriving him of proper medical treatment.

"Once again we appeal to the kidnappers to set them free," he said. [passage omitted]

Kashmir 'Militant' Group Urged To Release Hostages

BK1711160295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A spokesman of the Jammu and Kashmir government has again appealed to the militant outfit Al-Faran to release all the four foreign tourists held hostage by it. Reacting to the report of the outfit that one of the hostages is critically ill, the spokesman said that the abductors should at least set the sick hostage free on humanitarian grounds so that immediate medical aid is given to him.

In Jammu and Kashmir, security forces have apprehended 15 militants and recovered a large quantity of arms and ammunition during search operations since yesterday. According to official sources, five civilians were killed in militancy related violence.

Minister Calls For Release of Kashmir Hostages

BK1811161295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 18 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The union minister of state for home, Syed Sibte Razi, has appealed to the abductors of four foreign tourists to release them immediately, especially the one ailing tourist. Talking to our correspondent in Lucknow today, Syed Sibte Razi urged all the Islamic countries and those countries which have faith in human values to make an appeal for the immediate release of the captives.

Mr. Khalid Bashir, son-in-law of the National Conference leader, Mr. Bashir Ahmad Kichlu, was released by the militants in Doda today. He had been kidnapped from a shop at Puldoda on Wednesday [15 November]. Confirming the release of Mr. Khalid Bashir, an official spokesman said in Jammu this evening that Mr. Khalid Bashir had left Doda for Jammu.

The Panther's Party president, Professor Bhim Singh, has filed a writ petition in the Supreme court challenging the validity of the election commissioner's decision not to initiate the election process in Jammu and Kashmir. In his 34-page petition, Prof. Singh said this will deny the people of Jammu and Kashmir of their fundamental right to elect their representatives in accordance with the provisions of the constitution.

French Embassy: No Decision on Mirage to Pakistan

BK1811080795 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1530 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] France says that it has not taken any decision on the sale of 40 Mirage-2000 fighter planes to Pakistan. A French Embassy spokesman said this while talking to newspersons in New Delhi today. Pakistan's Premier Benazir Bhutto earlier claimed that France had agreed to sell Mirage fighter planes to Pakistan.

Rao Inaugurates First Light Combat Aircraft

BK1711132795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The indigenously-built Light Combat Aircraft, LCA, will be inducted into the Indian Air Force by 2002 AD. This was announced by the prime minister while releasing the country's first LCA developed and built by Indian scientists and engineers in Bangalore this evening.

Mr. Narasimha Rao pressed the button for the multimachine supersonic single seater fighter to rollout from the hanger of the Hindustan Aeronautics. He profusely complimented the entire community of avionic engineers for their unique and timely contribution.

Our Bangalore correspondent, Sheshachandrika, reports that today's rolling out of the LCA is a milestone in the Indian aviation history.

Earlier, the prime minister laid the foundation stone for an international convention center and a business and residential complex at Whitefield near Bangalore.

Report Details Light Combat Aircraft

BK1711164295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The country's first Light Combat Aircraft, LCA, developed and built by Indian scientists and engineers rolled out from the Hindustan Aeronautics, [HAL] in Bangalore this evening.

The prime minister released the multimachine supersonic single seater fighter from the hanger and complimented the entire community of avionic engineers for their unique and timely achievement. Mr. Narasimha Rao announced that LCA will be inducted into the Indian Air Force by 2002 AD after elaborate tests. The prime minister said at his behest the team of engineers involved in the LCA project have advanced the program by two years. Our correspondent, Sheshachandrika, reports:

[Begin correspondent recording] Today is a memorable day in the history of Indian aviation industry. The combined expertise of the Indian aeronautical community, guided by Indian Air Force, and supported by government came out with the prototype, the first indigenously-built Light Combat Aircraft. Prime Minister Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao buttoned and released the lightweight single-seater fighter from the HAL hanger this evening. Mr. Rao, who holds the defense portfolio himself, sat in the cockpit and examined various configurations. This small, supersonic, mutlirole fighter aircraft will undergo vigorous tests for next few months and will be inducted into the Indian Air Force once it is found perfect and trustworthy. [end recording]

Our correspondent further says apart from developing a complex weapon system in the LCA, the program has also contributed in achieving a quantum jump in the technological capability of the country. The aircraft is designed primarily to replace the MiG-21 series of the Indian Air Force. It is a scientifically engineered aircraft with a compound data platform.

Earlier, the prime minister laid the foundation stone of an international convention center and a business and residential complex at Whitefield near Bangalore. In the evening, Mr. Narasimha Rao participated in the music and dance festival for national integration at the Prasanti Nilayam at Puttaparthi in Andhra Pradesh.

Iran

Oil Conference Said 'Sign of Future U.S. Defeats'

NC1711103295 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 13 Nov 95 p 2

[Editorial: "Oil Investments with Iran, Reliable and Profitable"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] While the U.S. Congress has been active in reinforcing the effectiveness of its embargo on the Islamic Republic of Iran, representatives of 143 foreign and domestic oil companies have gathered in Tehran to study investments in eleven oil and gas projects.

Frustrated by the ineffectiveness of previous embargoes, the White House does not have viable plans from Congress. The Congressional plan is that if U.S. or foreign companies provide Iran with the equipment and technology to extract Iranian oil, those companies will be targeted for disciplinary action.

The aim is to pressure Iran and prevent it from aiding international terrorism and producing nuclear weapons.

The White House's concern is revealed by U.S. Undersecretary of State Peter Tarnoff who said to the House International Relations Committee that this new bill should not damage the United States more than it damages Iran, and it should not lead to damaging trade relations between the United States and its allies.

The U.S. is well aware that with its embargo against Iran, which was announced by Bill Clinton last June, the U.S. was the only country to end trade relations with Iran. Even its European allies such as Britain, France, Germany and Italy went against the embargo.

At present when the representatives of active and large non-U.S. companies have gathered in Tehran, American oil companies are disappointed in their lack of participation and consider it their loss.

The reliability of investment in Iran since the end of the Iraqi-imposed war has caused large non-U.S. oil companies to invest in Iran despite the embargo. The Islamic Republic of Iran will provide the initial investment and ensure an acceptable profit for these companies.

Political analysts believe that participants in this bid will leave this conference full-handed while the only loser will be the United States.

The repeated false claims by the U.S. that Iran supports international terrorism and produces nuclear weapons is nothing new. Rather, they are a cover for the wrong policies of the United States, and American oil companies have clearly understood this.

The participation of oil companies from France, Denmark, Canada, Norway, Italy, Malaysia, Finland, Austria, South Korea, Australia, etc., is the sign of future U.S. defeats. It will not be long for this new plan to meet the fate of the Alphonse D'Amato bill.

Islamic Iran is presently the cradle of peace, pleasure and prosperity. It will benefit from calculated foreign investments and, in exchange, will support those companies who wish to invest in I Iran with assurances of a reasonable return on their investments.

'Fake' Letter of 'Collaborator' Refuted by Official

LD1911161895 Tehran IRNA in English 1446 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 19, IRNA — Head of the Islamic revolutionary courts of Tehran, Gholam Hoseyn Rahbarpor here on Sunday [19 November] refuted foreign mass media claims that 'Abbas Amir-Entezam [name as received] has published an open letter at international circles.

"The letter is fake and has been written and published by fugitive enemies of the Islamic Republic outside the country in a bid to tarnish the prestige of the Islamic Republic of Iran," he said.

Rahbarpor said Amir-Entezam was tried and sentenced to life imprisonment in 1980 and 1981 after being found guilty of spying for foreigners and helping the key figures of the former regime flee the country. Amir-Entezam's offence was in no way of political or ideological nature.

The documents obtained from the den of espionage (former U.S. Embassy in Tehran) showed that that Amir-Entezam had a spying code name (S.D. Go Slowly) and had contacts with the CIA agents handing over top secret information to foreigners, he said.

He said during the trial proceedings, Amir-Entezam could not defend himself when a video-tape was screened showing a U.S. spy as introducing Amir-Entezam as a collaborator with U.S. agents. After watching video-taped film, Amir-Entezam only said, "they are corrupt and one should not place confidence in them."

Rahbarpor said, Amir-Entezam having misused its authority and having ignored all regulations, used to help those who had already been banned from leaving the country, escape from Iran along with precious antiques through the government's pavilion at Mehrabad airport.

He said Amir-Entezam had confessed in a session of court hearing that he was planing to help one thousand dissidents flee the country in a single day.

Amir-Entezam charged with spying had appeared in 18 sessions of court hearing presided over By Ayatollah Mohammadi Gilani in 1980 and 1981, also attended by Mehdi Bazargan and Ebrahim Yazdi, but, he could not defend himself, he said.

He said Amir-Entezam's colleagues in the freedom movement are freely engaged in political activities in Iran, something that indicates that Amir-Entezam's offence had nothing to do with his political or ideological orientation.

He rejected claims raised by anti-Iran foriegn mass media and fugitive counter-revolutionaries that Iranian judicial officials have asked Amir-Entezam to leave prison unconditionally.

Asked whether he would be pardoned if he lodged an appeal to the court, he said the matter will take its course and in case he made such demand, his appeal would be sent to the amnesty panel.

Rahbarpor said that despite the fake letter circulated by the opposition abroad, Amir-Entezam has not lodged an appeal to the court yet.

Rahbarpor said if Amir-Entezam was tried again this time he might face capital punishment owing to his heavy charges.

He said that at present Amir-Entezam is living under house arrest outside prison on recommendation of physicians due to his psychological and physical status.

Former UK Envoy Assails U.S. 'Containment Policy'

LD1811160095 Tehran IRNA in English
0843 GMT 18 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] London, Nov 18 (IRNA) — Even if Iran developed nuclear weapons, which it has denied repeatedly, it would not be an aggressive threat to any state, said Sir Anthony Parsons, the former British ambassador to Tehran.

Iran also posed no military threat to the Arab states in the Persian Gulf, he remarked, as he noted the Islamic Republic was "not an aggressive country" and was against any major upheaval in the region.

In an interview with IRNA here, the former envoy, who also served as British ambassador to the United Nations and as an advisor to former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, said a great gap existed between Iran's external image and the reality of its policies.

He criticized the rhetoric of Washington about Iran and the so-called U.S. containment policy. With regard to claims denied by Tehran about having a nuclear arms program, he suggested that he could sympathize even if it wanted such weapons.

The view of Britain's last ambassador to Tehran since the Islamic revolution was that, Iranian foreign policy has settled down and has become pragmatic, preferring a status quo in the region than major upheaval.

Following the breakup of the Soviet Union, he observed that Tehran had been careful to be correct in its relations with Russia and the newly independent states of central Asia.

Relations with Britain, he suggested, were "stuck" with neither side being able to move any further over the Salman Rushdie dispute, but indicated that the issue could be less crucial following attempts to dampen the disagreement.

Japan Said Resisting U.S. Pressure on Tehran Ties

LD1911152395 Tehran IRNA in English
1456 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 19, IRNA — A morning daily commenting on the recent visit of the U.S. Vice-President Al Gore to Osaka to attend the APEC [Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation] meeting and his effort to refrain the Japanese prime minister from paying the second installment of loan to Iran, expressed hope that Japan maintaining that the U.S. policy is an irrational long-term strategy will not bow to the U.S.

The english-language daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' in its editorial on Sunday [19 November] wrote that, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum which began work last Thursday in Osaka, Japan, concludes today. The representatives of member states are to explore the outcome of the forum and to stamp a seal of approval on the final plan.

It went on by saying, "U.S. Vice President Al Gore's visit to Osaka mostly aims to persuade Japanese prime minister Tomiichi Murayama to refrain from paying the second installment of Japan's loan to Iran, slated for dam construction projects, and to urge Tokyo to cut back its trade with Tehran."

Under a memorandum of understanding signed between Iran and Japan in April 1992, Tokyo undertook to contribute 150 trillion yen in loans for construction of the Karun-4 dam in Iran's southern province of Khuzestan.

The paper pointed out, "despite comprehensive opposition by Washington, in May 1993 the Japanese Government invested 38.6 billion yen (dlrs. 400 million) in the project as the first installment of the loan. Due to renewed pressures from Washington, Tokyo has so far failed to pay the second installment."

The paper also said, "the executive operation of Karun-4 stream power plant, underway in cooperation with Japan and South Korea, is a symbol of good Tehran-Tokyo relations which undoubtedly is a source of dissatisfaction for the White House.

"Just as Japanese officials refrained from joining the U.S. in economic sanctions against Iran, likewise, lacking documented evidence for U.S. allegations against Iran, Tokyo will fulfill its obligations in the near future," the paper emphasized.

It continued, "sanctions against Iran will be detrimental to both U.S. and Japanese companies. Furthermore, the Karun-4 dam is projected to be completed by the year 2,000, any further delays in payment of Japan's second installment are no longer acceptable."

"Thus, once more, Japan is being tested. Japan which maintains that the U.S. policy is an irrational long-term strategy, will pass the test successfully," the editorial concluded.

U.S. Said To Ask Bosnia To Sever Ties With Tehran

LD1911113395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The United States has called for relations between the Bosnian Government and the Islamic Republic of Iran to be broken.

According to a report by the Central News Unit from Sarajevo, a Bosnian official has stated: During the peace talks in Ohio, the U.S. Government asked Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic to sever relations between Sarajevo and Tehran in order to stem Iran's influence.

There are no reports so far regarding the Bosnian Government's response to that request.

Commentaries Address Elections Held in Algeria

'Sham Elections' Viewed

LD1711221195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 17 Nov 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On Friday 17 November, the Algerian state radio station announced, according to the latest results from the presidential elections ballot boxes, Liamine Zeroual has won about 68 percent of the votes. The Algerian interior minister, Mustapha Benmansour, has meantime claimed that about 74 percent of the overall eligibles have participated in the presidential elections. This is under conditions when impartial observers expressed doubt about the accuracy of the figures released by the Algerian government.

Head of the Islamic community movement, Mahfoud Nahnah, one of four Algerian candidates for presidency, who stands second after Zeroual where the number of votes are concerned and has denounced the Algerian military men for taking advantage of the situation, has reiterated that what has happened in Algeria is a disgrace, far from realities. The opponents of the Algerian government, responding to the accusations, say that the figures released by the Algerian government are none but a mere fraud and lie, announcing that no more than 30 percent of the overall eligibles have participated in the elections.

The Algerian opposition have admitted that presentation of such false figures was expected from the military men who have a negative record in avoiding the results of the parliamentary elections in January 1992. The Algerian government opponents, who formed the vast coalition against the Algerian military men in January, had boycotted the presidential elections. The Algerian opposition parties, who expressed the point that a holding of such elections will fail to resolve the Algeria crisis which is the result of undemocratic and violent performance of the Algerian military men.

By holding presidential elections, the Algerian rulers do not intend to introduce a peaceful settlement of the crisis in the country. They only think of legalizing their illegal rule. But the timely reaction of Algerian opposition and the boycott of the sham elections by them have all discouraged the regime of Algeria to win its evil objectives. Non-participation of the Algerian opposition parties — which form Algeria's major parties and had won the highest number of votes in January 1992 Parliamentary election — question the credit of the Algerian militarymen's elections. The opponents have insisted on the fact that under conditions when the Algerian militarymen have a negative record in cancelling the elections and barbarically shed the blood of Muslims in the country, how can one expect free and fair elections.

According to political observers, fabrications and holding of the sham elections by the Algerian military men will not only bring them no legality and legitimacy but will also complicate the crisis in that country; a much more difficult trap for the Algerian rulers.

Western Stance Said Helping Regime

NC1811110995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 18 Oct 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] As predicted earlier, General Zeroual, the head of the military clique ruling Algeria, was declared successful in the elections held on Thursday [16 November]. Representatives of some international groups and organizations who had come to Algeria to supervise these elections endorsed the results and described the elections as free and just.

These supervisors also mentioned the people's unprecedented participation in these elections. The Western news media also carried a minute-by-minute account of this event and played up its importance as the solution for extricating the country from the four-year long crisis in Algeria and a precursor to the establishment of peace, tranquility, and democracy in this trouble- ridden North African country. As soon as the outcome was known, they relayed the news all over the world of what they described as the triumph of democracy over extremism and violence.

The military clique ruling Algeria claims that 74.9 percent of the eligible voters participated in the elections on Thursday and General Zeroual, who heads the clique and was put at the helm of power by militarists nearly two years ago, won with 68.5 of the votes. However, the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], citing reliable sources in the Algerian Interior Ministry, announced that only 26 percent of eligible voters had participated. The FIS and seven other main parties, who had obtained more than 90 percent of all the votes in the previous elections, boycotted the Thursday elections in Algeria saying it was a restrictive charade in the name of democracy and a means for giving legitimacy to the militarist government there.

The ruling military coterie had annulled the results of the parliamentary elections four years ago in which the Islamists had attained dazzling victories, and in a military coup d'etat all the democratic institutions in Algeria were dissolved. This action proved a catalyst for plunging Algeria into a crisis and a destructive civil war, which has claimed more than 70,000 victims and has paralyzed the country's economy.

Until very recently, Western governments had been touting the need for talks and agreement between the ruling militarists and the Islamists and deemed it a basic prerequisite for holding a referendum and a prelude to extricating the country from the crisis. Accordingly, the West expressed unified support for the national resolution signed last year in Rome by the main political groups in Algeria and described it as the sole acceptable basis for negotiations and reconciliation.

It is astonishing that despite having adopted the aforementioned stance, the Western governments have ignored the boycott of the made-to-order elections by eight major factions and have endorsed the ruling military clique in unison. They are seeking to project the Thursday elections in Algeria as healthy, free, and just by emphasizing the presence of international observers and thus to highlight the legitimacy of General Zeroual's government.

Analysts consider this sudden about-face in the West's stance as due to the fact that if free elections were held, the ruling military party would have no chance of succeeding. Also the Islamists proved in the parliamentary, municipal, and provincial council elections of 1369 [year beginning 21 March 1990] and 1370 that they would have received the people's votes. Obviously under such conditions the West would not support democracy.

'Dual Attitude' of West Discussed

LD1811161695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 18 Nov 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The interior ministry in Algeria, on Friday 17 November, declared Liamine Zeroual as the winner of the 16 November presidential elections. Western circles described the polls as free and democratic. But what seems to be the significant issue in this regard, which has also attracted the attention of political circles, is the dual attitude of the West toward the presidential elections in Algeria and the parliamentary polls in that country back in 1992. Those elections, as confirmed by the Western media, were also held in a democratic atmosphere but the results which demonstrated the victory of the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] were rejected by the Algerian military. The cancellation of the elections prevented the real MPs of the country from entering parliament, leading to a major crisis in the country which has claimed the lives of tens of thousands of people.

The point is that the Western mass media so easily turned a deaf ear to all that, showing no reaction to the Army's measures. The presidential elections in Algeria were, however, a sham with no sign of democracy. Nevertheless, the Western mass media introduced them as free and fair elections which also enjoyed public support. The question arising here is what objectives are the Western mass media and circles pursuing in adopting a dual stance toward the 16 November presidential elections and the parliamentary polls in January 1992.

Political sources say that this dual policy is rooted in the fact that Western circles support the type of democracy they desire. Western countries always favor democracy as they interpret it and only when it preserves their interests in the countries under their domination. Undoubtedly, the coming to power of a popular Muslim party under the name FIS has never been desired by the Western states. Political observers believe that in case the news on massive participation of people in the election is true, then the reason for it would be people's rejection of violence and a futile pursuit of militarism to end the three-year-old crisis in the country. It should also be seen that the violence has been the outcome of military acts in the first place. People are now seeking an end to it.

Nation Said To Back UN's Afghanistan Peace Plan

NC1911101995 Paris AFP in English 0950 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov 19 (AFP) — Iran supports a UN plan for a transfer of power in Afghanistan as a move toward peace in the war-ravaged country, Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi said in remarks published Sunday [19 November].

Borujerdi, who has just returned from Afghanistan, told TEHRAN TIMES daily that the implementation of the plan unveiled by UN envoy Mahmoud Mestiri four days ago would be "the first step toward a peaceful settlement of the Afghan conflict."

The Taleban Islamic militia beseiging the Afghan capital Kabul has already turned down the plan, which calls for Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani to hand over power to a 28-man council made up of various factional representatives and independent figures. Rabbani's mandate expired in 1994 and main opposition groups have called for him to step down.

Borujerdi, who said in his recent visit to Afghanistan that Iran recognized the Kabul government, added however that Rabbani was "today in a better position," but did not clarify whether he meant in a political or military sense.

The Iranian official urged "other countries concerned to cooperate with Iran to put an end to the bloodshed" in Afghanistan. He was apparently referring to Pakistan, which supports Taleban and has called on Rabbani to step down. The least these countries could do is not to "fan the flame of civil war," Borujerdi said.

Pakistan has rejected the peace plan as "defective."

Afghan Refugee Repatriation Said Via Turkmenistan

LD2011113495 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ahmad Hosayni, director general of the Interior Ministry's department of foreign nationals and immigrants, described how the foreign refugees living in Iran will be repatriated. He said: In view of the fact that the UN offices are closed in [Afghanistan's] Herat and Nimroz Provinces, the repatriation of Afghan refugees from Iran will take place through Turkmenistan.

Hosayni added that under an agreement reached between Iran and Turkmenistan and the UNHCR, it was decided that 250,000 Afghan refugees will be repatriated through Turkmenistan.

Speaking about the Islamic Republic of Iran's policy of restricting the acceptance of refugees, he said that at present the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran does not have any plan yet for the compulsory repatriation of Iraqi refugees.

Delegation Said To Visit Doha for Talks With UAE

NC1811112395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A Foreign Ministry spokesman announced that an Iranian delegation left for Doha yesterday for talks with a delegation of the United Arab Emirates [UAE].

Mohammadi added: The two delegations will assess the modus operandi for initiating talks between officials of the two countries at a higher level. He said that Doha was chosen as the venue for bilateral talks based on the Qatari foreign minister's suggestion to Foreign Minister Velayati and was agreed upon on with the latter's concurrence.

Commerce Minister on Promoting Ties With Germany

LD1911192995 Tehran IRNA in English
1857 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 19, IRNA — Iranian Minister of Commerce, Yahya ol-Eshaq said here on Sunday [19 November] that the bilateral trade volume between Iran and Germany which stood at nine billion dollars in 1992 has dropped to a level of about a third in the past three years.

In a meeting with German Ambassador to Tehran, Horst Beshmann, ol-Eshaq referred to the special relations enjoyed between Tehran- Bonn and hoped that the level of trade exchange would go beyond the trade volume in 1992.

Ol-Eshaq said Iran has liquidated the main part of its debts to Germany and rescheduled the rest of the arrears.

Iranian minister of commerce said Iran has considerble potentials including transit networks that linked Iran with all the central Asian states. He added this grid helped serve the expansion of trade and economic cooperation between Iran and facilitate Germany's investment in the central Asia and Caucasus.

German ambassador said Germany believed that Iran could assume a pivotal role in trade between Germany and the central Asia.

Beshmann said Iranian workers and students are of high degree of intellect admired by German industrialists and hoped that the two countries would further cooperate in technical areas.

Jannati Delivers Second Friday Prayer Sermon

LD1711145695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran Provincial Network in Persian
0755 GMT 17 Nov 95

[Second Friday prayer sermon by Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, senior member of the Guardian Council, in Tehran — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted]

We have had quite a busy week. [passage omitted] There was the march and rally by Hezbollah this week. It was the first time Hezbollah organized such a gathering in a square in Tehran. This is very significant; it has a message to give to everyone, and everyone should know what the message is about.

The declaration [at the end of the rally] has shown what Hezbollah is saying and what it is all about. Briefly, Hezbollah says: Just as we were ready to defend Islam and the revolution, before the revolution; just as we were ready to struggle against oppression and corruption; just as we gave so many martyrs and injured after the revolution; just as we suffered a great deal and many of us were imprisoned before the revolution; so we remain steadfast and strong and we shall do so until the last drop of our blood; we remain true to our previous aims, convictions, and aspirations. [crowd chants: "God is great," "Khamene'i is the leader," "Death to Saddam," "Death to America," "Death to Israel"]

They announced that they remain faithful to the great imam [Khomeyni], to the imam's line and path; they announced that they remain faithful to the great leader of the Islamic revolution [Khamene'i] and velayat-e faqih [guardianship of the supreme jurisconsult]; they announced that they remain faithful to the aims of the revolution. This is very valuable.

We could discuss this issue for a long time, but let me just point this out — and I want those people who should understand this to do so: In such situations, it would be good for someone to take a look at their faces, let him see who attends these gatherings. Who gathers on the streets on 4 November [anniversary of occupation of U.S. Embassy in 1979]? Who took part in the gathering in Vali-ye Asr Square [on 13 November]? Who takes part in all these gatherings? I can tell you: The very same sans-culottes, the same oppressed, the deprived, the people who from the very first day carried the burden of the revolution. They were the ones who bore the brunt of the revolution.

There is room for a complaint here: Why were certain faces absent from this gathering? These are the issues that are relevant to the revolution. Nonattendance by some people raises questions. These questions should be asked. Why were certain people absent on 4 November? Why weren't they there in the other [13 November] gathering? This gathering was organized by Hezbollah. Hezbollah is not a particular political party. It really is a divine party, and Hezbollah doesn't expect anything from anyone. All they are saying is this: We shall tolerate all the difficulties so that the rule of religion may be implemented, so that Islam and the revolution may remain alive, so that corruption may be confronted. They want to confront those who do not observe the Islamic dress code properly. Well, not observing the Islamic dress code is the least of our problems; there are more important issues which have to be dealt with. Western culture must be rejected, Islamic culture must be dominant in all areas. These are the messages. I hope everyone grasps the meaning of these messages, but some people will not. [passage omitted]

Another matter I would like to refer to is the Supreme Court's confirmation of the ruling of the Islamic Revolution Court [in the Bank Saderat embezzlement case]. I thank the Supreme Court and the court which made the ruling. It was very good. As I have said before, open trials are necessary in certain cases. The people must be kept abreast of the situation, they should see things and become optimistic. The ruling was made very decisively and will be carried out decisively. We thank all those dear ones and hope that they will follow the matter up more closely and that if there are similar cases they will deal with them, and if there aren't any they will make sure such ugly and repulsive deeds are not repeated in the future. [passage omitted]

There are also a number of important issues in the international arena. One of these was the sickening incident in Azerbaijan, which was totally unthinkable and unexpected — especially considering that Azerbaijan is a country which has recently been emancipated from the domination of a power which was against God, religion,and Islam, and a country which for 70 years experienced the bitter taste of secular and antireligious measures. It was God's will that the dominating power should be destroyed and these people gain freedom and the ability to live freely.

But now suddenly a constitution is proposed there which talks about the separation of religion from politics, and the establishment of a secular state. It also speaks of banning the teaching of religious knowledge in schools. One is really amazed about the way some people allow themselves to move against the will of the Muslim people of the region and against Islam in such a way.

Everyone knows that the honorable people of Azerbaijan are Muslims and Shiites. How can a nation like this suddenly be deprived of its Islam? How, for instance, can one remove the instruction that the president must swear on the Koran? How can one say that political affairs should not be confined to religious boundaries and the statesmen are free to do what they want, whether this complies with religion or not?

In sum, the proposal is very much against the spirit of Islam. The courageous people of our Azerbaijan [in northwest Iran] staged rallies and chanted slogans to express their condemnation and their hatred of the move. This condemnation is shared by all Muslim nations. There are many Islamic countries where Islam is an integral part of the constitution. However, we see that in a country with such a history of suffering under the communists, the same communist elements come forward and write a constitution which repeats the same things as prevailed in the old days.

We want to take the opportunity here to express our condemnation of the move. Moreover, no one would believe that the religious people of that country actually took part in the elections and voted in favor of such a bad proposal. [crowd chants in support]

The other issue is the recent tensions in Israel and the United States. Recent developments have revealed many realities about these two countries — realities which simple-minded people hitherto did not want to believe. People normally think that Israel has stability, that the state there is very much on top of things, and that the people there are content and satisfied. They think there are no disputes in Israel, or if there are, they are merely minor disputes. However, the killing of Rabin — which was really a God-sent thing — revealed the truth.

It became apparent that in Israel there are sizeable groups of people who are so dissatisfied that they are prepared to perpetrate assassination. The bullet which hit him was very revealing. We were in fact surprised because we were quite unaware of the extent of the rift in Israel.

The world of arrogance went into mourning, and the fact that so many of its leaders wept and lamented for him revealed the importance of the role that Rabin played in implementing the policies of the arrogant powers.

Overall then, the event showed that the situation is very fragile and volatile there. This situation, moreover, has been brought about by the Jews themselves, and there is no need for a Muslim to go there and do things. The Jews themselves are so dissatisfied that they will do it themselves.

Of course, this was also a revenge for the blood of martyr Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi. They thought that by killing people like Fathi al-Shaqaqi the issues would be resolved. The Almighty, however, who cannot allow injustice... [pauses] In the end, someone rose from the midst of the very same people who have killed and assassinated a large number of Muslims and have kidnapped them from their homes and taken them as prisoners to Israel. So are these people still justified in saying that they are against terrorism? Are they still justified in accusing Iran of supporting terrorism? It is Israel that is the terrorist. To sum up then, the whole event revealed a great number of issues.

The recent dispute between the Republicans, the Democrats, the Congress, and Clinton also reveals many realities. One of these is the lamentable financial situation in the United States, which has a great amount of debts. The economic situation is so dire that the disputes have now become public and many government office and embassies have had to close down. At the same time 800,000 government employees have been made jobless. The entire affair has many meanings, and has shown the people of the world many facts that previously they did not believe.

We hope that they suffer even more because of their deeds so that they may be forced to review their actions and do something about them. The world will not allow sins to go unpunished. Wherever they go, they rely on military presence. They want to be the international police force. Moreover, wherever they go they spread moral corruption and decadence. They drag women in other parts of the world to prostitution and they nurture prostitutes. Despite all these, they expect people not to be dissatisfied or angry.

Something happens in [Saudi] Arabia and their military center is blown up. Even though Arabistan's [Saudi Arabia's] own press said that the event was an internal affair carried out by indigenous dissidents — as confirmed by some Western press reports — but in a bid to exploit the situation politically and blame their problems on the outside world, they mentioned the name of Iran.

Is Iran involved in everything which happens in every corner of the world? It is absolutely certain that we do not seek or support the presence of tension and crisis in the region. You must know that wherever you go, you will face the same situation. Is it not a fact that Japan rebelled against you? Japan after all is a country which as a rule you have very friendly relations with. Did you not see the crisis you created there because of your debauchery? Did you not see what happened in Somalia and other parts of the world?

You must be absolutely certain that your sins will eventually find you out, and what you face is the natural consequence of your own deeds. So do not accuse others without any reason. Do not blame your problems on the outside world. Your problems are due to your own internal issues. It is these issues that you must deal with. [crowd chants in support]

The made-to-measure election in Algeria was another new issue. The situation there is obvious. The stance of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] is well-known. With all its supporters it won the elections four years ago. It is obvious how much support it enjoys. The more its members got killed the more its support grew and the supporters of the ruling military power became fewer, because of the slaughters they committed in the four-year period. There are also other dissident movements and parties there.

It is not clear what it means to hold an election and bring it to a conclusion in their own favor under such circumstances. How could it be analyzed? Does it mean all the dissidents are happy now? Those who for so many years have lost their lives, have been fighting, have been imprisoned, have been made homeless, have suffered hardship, are they now happy with the military government? Those are things which a sound mind would not believe.

I will now say something about Nigeria. They executed nine dissidents there. What a hue and cry was raised in the world. They recalled their ambassadors. There is also talk of sanctions and Nigeria's expulsion from certain pacts. It is really amazing. We do not wish to endorse Nigeria's action; it is not right. Governments should be able to tolerate their opposition; they should give freedom to their opposition to speak up, if what they say is right. One cannot solve problems with executions. But was this confined to Nigeria alone? How many dissidents were killed in Algeria? Why wasn't there a peep out of anybody? They have killed nine people in Nigeria while they have killed more than 900 or 1,000 there in Algeria. But that was all right, because the West was in favor of it and supported it. They [the Algerian opposition] had taken a stand against Western policies. For that reason it was all right to shed their blood. When they killed nine people in Nigeria, however, there was such a hue and cry. [passage omitted]

TV on 'Discriminatory Approach' of Nuclear Powers

LD1811131495 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1054 GMT 18 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The UN General Assembly [UNGA] Disarmament Committee adopted a resolution deploring nuclear tests and calling for a definite end to such tests and the speeding up of the signing of a convention for the total ban on nuclear tests. The resolution was approved by 95 votes after two weeks of deliberation. There were 12 votes against the convention and 45 abstentions. It called for a speedy ending of nuclear tests throughout the world.

Although the UNGA Disarmament Committee does not name any specific countries, current affairs observers believe it to be addressed toward China and France. The French and Chinese nuclear tests have provoked sharp reaction, especially against France. During the two weeks when the nuclear tests issue was on the UNGA Disarmament Committee's agenda, France made great efforts to prevent the adoption of a resolution which condemned its nuclear tests. Having resumed nuclear tests recently, after a short break, France faced widespread opposition domestically and abroad. The nuclear tests were justified by France for reasons such as maintaining the security of nuclear bases and preserving its position alongside other nuclear powers. The French representative at the UNGA Disarmament Committee, arguing that nuclear tests are crucial to his country's national security, described the tests as necessary.

China, which has recently carried out nuclear tests, argues that the level of its nuclear capability is much lower than that of other nuclear powers and that big nuclear powers are continuing their nuclear tests by carrying them out in laboratories. Thus, China believes itself justified in carrying out such tests. Under such circumstances, it considers the ending of its tests to mean falling behind the other nuclear powers. The Chinese representative at the UNGA Disarmament Committee meeting declared that the Beijing nuclear tests during the past 30 years have been equivalent to the tests carried out in only one year by one of the two superpowers. That is why he describes China's nuclear tests as merely a deterrent and defensive measure.

The resumption of nuclear tests, beside being considered as detrimental to the environment and man's health, is viewed with suspicion from the point of view of potentially neutralizing international efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear arms. What has caused nuclear arms to proliferate in the world and the signing of a convention for the total ban on nuclear tests to be deferred, despite international efforts, is the discriminatory approach by the nuclear powers. Those powers are trying to use their status as possessors of nuclear arms to limit their rivals. That is why, while they show no inclination to reduce their nuclear arsenals, they stress the ending of nuclear tests. Such an approach is considered to be an obstacle for the disarmament process since it creates mistrust among states. Reforming methods and taking into consideration the interests of human communities rather than the limited interests of the nuclear powers can encourage countries in the process of disarmament, ending nuclear tests and the destruction of nuclear arms.

The adoption of a resolution in the UNGA Disarmament Committee, although it cannot in itself put an effective and definite end to nuclear tests because of the weaknesses in its enforcement mechanisms, is considered as a form of pressure on the nuclear powers since it shows the opposition of public opinion to such tests and to the proliferation of nuclear arms. That public opinion pressure can, to a certain extent, bring about a review of decisions and, in the long run, the limiting of nuclear tests.

Tourist Accommodations Predicted To Almost Double

LD1911131595 Tehran IRNA in English 1115 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kerman Prov., Nov. 19, IRNA — Accomodations for tourists visiting Iran will increase from 35,000 to 60,000 beds by the end of the second five-year development plan (1995-1999), reported Hoseyn Taheri, the culture and Islamic guidance deputy minister for tourist affairs.

He noted that one of the main policies of the government in the current development plan is to encourage tourism, adding it is expected that some two million visitors will come to Iran by the turn of the century.

Last year, some 350,000 tourists entered Iran and this figure is expected to reach the half million mark by the end of the Iranian calendar year (21 March 1996).

Taheri divulged that around 850,000 Iranian tourists are annually visiting various countries abroad.

According to a comprehensive plan for tourism, Kerman Province in eastern Iran has been named as one of the country's attractive sites as it offers historical, cultural and natural landmarks.

In terms of tourist attractions, Iran ranks tenth in the world.

Reasons for Increase in Meat Prices Given

96LA0011B Tehran RESALAT in Persian 3 Aug 95 p 11

[Report on interview with Engineer 'Ali Reza 'Azizollahi, deputy minister of livestock affairs of the Ministry of Construction Jihad, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Economic Division—The increase in the price of production utilities and current expenditures, limitations on the import of red meat, not having announced coupons, exports and smuggling of livestock are among the major reasons for the increase in the price of meat.**

In an interview with the economic correspondent of RESALAT, Engineer 'Ali Reza 'Azizollahi, the deputy minister of livestock affairs of the Ministry of Construction Jihad, made this statement and said: The price of meat in any case is affected by supply and demand, and when supply and demand reach a balance, the price will find its true place.

Referring to the increase in the price of livestock feed this year, Eng. 'Azizollahi said: For example, the price of a kg of barley this year increased to 320 rials [R], whereas last year it was R240. Also, the price of alfalfa this year increased by 25 percent.

He also referred to the increase in the cost of fuel, water, and electricity as well as labor costs. Regarding the increase in the cost of livestock medicine, he said: Some of the drug imports and raw materials were procured with floating foreign currency (R1,750) and another part at export foreign currency rates, whereas this year all of it is imported at the export foreign currency rate (R3,020).

He added: The total foreign currency allocated to drug imports this year is $90 million, which does not meet our needs. Hence, the rest of the needs will be imported at the open-market foreign currency rate, which is one of the factors in the increase in the price of meat.

The deputy minister for livestock affairs of the Ministry of Construction Jihad said in regards to the import of red meat: The import of meat due to the foreign currency problems has been limited. Last year, the level of imports was 66,000 tons, whereas this year it will be 80,000, but, due to the foreign currency problems, no credit has been opened for it yet.

Eng. 'Azizollahi regarded the increase in the price of world price of protein materials, another factor in the increase in the price of meat and concerning the exports of livestock said: based on Note 54 of the currency budget law, the government has been obliged to issue permits for the export of 700,000 sheep and 700,000 goats. So far, permits have been issued for the export of only 300,000 goats and sheep.

He added: Export permits were previously given to the private sector as well, but due to the decrease in the rate of foreign currency, livestock exports have lost their attractiveness, and at the present export permits are only given to the meat companies, and mainly due to their using the foreign currency from exports, it is for importing meat and raw materials. So far, permits for the export of 5,000 head of livestock has been given to the meat organization.

He continued: The price of a kg of mutton in the neighboring countries is about $4-4.50, whereas the price of a kg of imported meat of the highest quality is $2-2.50. Hence, for every kg of exported meat, at least 2 kg of meat can be imported.

Distribution of Coupons in 3 Stages Viewed

96LA0011C Tehran RESALAT in Persian 5 Aug 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] **Economic Division—Following the start of the distribution of the 10-phase coupons by the Economic Mobilization Headquarters and specifying the headquarters to examine the necessary changes regarding the stubs of coupons in the 10 districts of Tehran, many people have gone to these centers and long lines are being formed.**

According to a report by the economic correspondent of RESALAT, there were long lines to change the coupons in front of the centers, and people were standing in lines for hours. One visitor told our correspondent: There are people who have been waiting since early morning.

Referring to the large crowd of people in the southern city centers, he said he has come from the Chahr-e Rey area to this center because of the crowds in the District 20 center. He said: There is only one center for Districts 19 and 20, and only 300 people are able to exchange coupons per day, whereas two to three times this number are waiting in line.

Khosrow Nazavi, another visitor, said: The number of people visiting is very large, and we must spend a great deal of time in line. Introducing himself as an employee, he said: Every month, I only have two days off, and if this continues I will have to ask for more days off.

Another visitor told our correspondent: Yesterday, I went to the headquarters in District 5 of the Economic Mobilization, which has been combined with District 2, and because it was very crowded, I went to Branch 2 of District 5, which was also crowded, so I did not succeed. Finally, I went to the Central Headquarters here, which is also very crowded.

He continued: I hope the officials will allocate more centers to reduce the crowding.

Mr. Hamidi, the head of the Public Relations Office of the Commerce Department of Tehran Province, said that any explanation must be coordinated with the Ministry of Commerce and said: On Saturday, after coordinating with the Ministry of Commerce, the necessary explanations will be made available to the newspaper.

He said: Two new centers have also started working, one of which is on Mohammadiyyeh Square on Shahid Mostafa Khomeyni Street. With the expansion of centers, the crowding will be reduced.

An informed source in the Commerce Department of Tehran Province told our reporter: The work regarding the changes in coupon stubs will continue for the next three months, and coupon distribution will be in three phases. Hence, people must avoid crowding at once at the centers and go there gradually.

One of the officials involved in the affairs regarding the change in coupons pointed out: Most of the people who come are people who have had newborns in the past two or three years or a member of their family has married or died.

He said: The necessary documents for changing the coupon stubs regarding the newly-married are the birth certificates of the couple. Also, those in whose family someone has died must have the voided birth certificate of the person with them.

Effect of Foreign Exchange Policy on Vehicle Industry

96LA0011DTehran RESALAT in Persian 6 Aug 95 p 11

[Report on interview with Engineer Seyyed Mohammad 'Ali Seyyed-Abrishami, deputy for metal industries of the Ministry of Industries, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Economic Division—Soon road tests for several new kinds of domestically manufactured vehicles in the form of "sedans" and "vans" will be completed.**

Engineer Seyyed Mohammad 'Ali Seyyed-Abrishami, deputy for metal industries of the Ministry of Industries, made this announcement in an interview with the economic correspondent of RESALAT.

Production of National Vehicles

Stating that "we have no clear definition of a national vehicle," Eng. Seyyed-Abrishami said: If what is meant by production of a national vehicle is the manufacture of 100 percent of its parts in the country, it must be said that at the present, no car company in no country does such a thing, because the manufacture of certain parts that have particular standards is not feasible in the country.

Situation of Production and the Retail Price of Cars This Year

Stating that "the level of demand for the purchase of vehicles this year is estimated by the domestic market to be about 90,000 vehicles," Eng. Seyyed-Abrishami added: The vehicle production program for the production units this year is regulated on the basis of market needs. In the four months of this year, in Iran-Khodrow Company, which is the major producer of sedans, 19,000 Peykans have been produced, which is more than half of last year's production.

In response to the question of our correspondent, "Considering the decrease in the rate of foreign currency and the stabilization of the price of the dollar at 3,000 rials [R], will the retail price of domestically produced vehicles decrease?" he added: The retail price of domestically produced vehicles is determined by the Consumers and Producers Protection Organization, in which representatives of the Ministries of Commerce and Industries, the Protection Organization, and the producing company participate. The Ministry of Industries always supports the decrease in the price of metal industries products, including vehicles.

The deputy for non-metal [as published] industries of the Ministry of Industries, stating that the "manufacturing cost of a Peykan sedan is about R20 million," said: At the present, the difference between the selling price of a vehicle, which is R9.5 million, is deposited in the account of the Consumers and Producers Protection Organization once every six months, and the general policy is to keep the selling price of vehicles at the lowest level that the market will allow.

The Effect of New Policies on the Production Process of Metal Industries

Stating that "foreign currency policies are not separate from the economic policies of the country," he added:

What is being produced at the present in the factories of the metal and vehicle industries is done with the raw materials and parts remaining from last year, which were procured with foreign currency from exports.

In response to the question by our correspondent, "Considering that the metal industries are mostly the consumers of foreign currency, will the foreign currency restrictions result in a decline in production in this sector?" Eng. Seyyed-Abrishami added: What is important to the production units is the stability of foreign currency policies, not the limitations, because if a production unit knows how it can have imports and exports, it will regulate its production plans accordingly.

Foreign Currency Needed by Metal Industries

In response to the question, "What is the estimated annual need for foreign currency for production in the metal industries sector by the Ministry of Industries, and how much has been allocated by the Central Bank for this year?" Eng. Seyyed-Abrishami said: The foreign currency needed by this sector, considering the limitations in this year, has been announced to the Central Bank by the Ministry of Industries to be $1.7 billion, of which $800 million is allocated as partial payment by the Central Bank for production in this sector, until the end of this year.

He also mentioned the level of requests for foreign currency by the production units in the metal industries sector to be more than $1 billion up to early Tir [22 June-22 July] this year and said: Of this amount, by the end of Tir this year, $180 million in credit was opened for the production units in this sector by the Central Bank.

The deputy for metal industries of the Ministry of Industries regarded the reason for the high level of requests for foreign currency by the production units to be a psychological factor and said: Because in the first three months of this year no foreign currency funds have been opened for the units, the units announced their total foreign currency needs at once, and this level of request will decrease by the end of this year.

Concerning the level of production of the metal industries, he added: In the first three months of this year, 357 busses, 197 minibuses, 431 trucks, 16,980 sedans, 2,183 pickup trucks, 1,010 pickup trucks with two differentials, 18,681 motorcycles, 27,557 bicycles, 71,000 gas water heaters, 75,000 gas heaters, 6,000 kerosene heaters, 75,000 gas stoves, 52,000 11-kg cylinders, 102,400 water coolers, 56,000 table fans, 15,100 vacuum cleaners, 1,941,000 switches and receptacles, 7,600 washing machines, 90,000 refrigerators and refrigerator freezers, 25,000 home freezers, 20,300 fruit juicers, 98,000 2-kg cylinders, 65,000 square meters of steel radiators, 127,000 aluminum radiators, 380 tractors, and 65,000 electric motors have been produced in the industrial and production units of the country.

Inflation Rate in Rural Areas Announced

96LA0011E Tehran RESALAT in Persian 7 Aug 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] The index of the retail price of goods and services used in rural households of the country (inflation rate) in 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] grew by 43.7 percent and reached 7,236 (100=1361 [21 March 1982-20 March 1983]) [sentence as published]

According to the Public Relations Office of the Statistical Center of Iran, in the year under study (1373), two groups of "foods, beverages, and tobacco" and non-food goods and services increased by 44.5 percent and 42.8 percent, respectively.

New Refah Chain Stores To Be Established

96LA0011F Tehran RESALAT in Persian 5 Aug 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] Rasht (IRNA)—According to the presidential adviser for the affairs of the Refah Chain Stores, in order to support consumers and help the Headquarters for Market Regulation, 200 Refah Chain Stores will be established throughout the country.

On Wednesday [2 August], in the Support Headquarters for Market Regulation of Gilan Province, 'Askari added: Of this number, eight will be established in Gilan.

Prices Increase in Chain Stores

96LA0011G Tehran RESALAT in Persian 10 Aug 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] **Economic Division—In the first two months of this year, sales in the Town and Country, Çods, and Sepah Chain Stores reached 22.7 billion rials [R].**

According to a report by the Office of Economic Statistics of the Central Bank, the average index of the sales in these stores in the period mentioned amounted to 141.5, which compared to the first two months of the previous year shows an increase of 24.5 percent.

This report also indicates that the index of the wholesale price of goods in Iran in Ordibehesht this year reached 454.3%, which compared to the previous month and the same month in 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995], increased by 14.8% and 77.3%, respectively.

In this month, the index of the price of consumer goods and services in urban areas of the country was 350.7, and compared to the previous month and the same month last year increased by 7.1% and 58.8%, respectively.

This index for Tehran in Ordibehesht 1374 [21 April-21 May 1995] was 344.9, which compared to the previous month and the same month in 1373 increased by 6.2 and 54%, respectively.

Increase Seen in Price of Gold

96LA0011H Tehran RESALAT in Persian 2 Aug 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] **The price of coins increased by 2,000 rials [R] compared to the previous week.**

According to the economic correspondent of RESALAT, the price of coins and gold, following the stabilization of the foreign currency rate by the Central Bank, increased by R3,000 in the market.

According to this report, this morning, the prices of one new and old design coin were R395,000 and R440,000, respectively. Also, the price of one gram of 18-carat gold (without craftsman labor) was R39,940.

Official Price of Gold Reported

5 Aug

96LA0011I Tehran RESALAT in Persian 6 Aug 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] The official price of the Bahar-e Azadi gold coin in the open market transactions of Tehran remained stable on Saturday [5 August] compared to Thursday of last week.

According to our correspondent, in Tehran the official Bahar-e Azadi gold coin was bought and sold for 395,000 rials [R] and the old-design gold coin for R430,000.

8 Aug

96LA0011J Tehran RESALAT in Persian 8 Aug 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] Economic Division—This morning (Tuesday), the new and old design Bahar-e Azadi gold coin were bought and sold at 395,000 rials [R] and R437,000, respectively, in open market transactions.

According to a report by the economic correspondent of RESALAT, the price of the Bahar-e Azadi gold coin shows an increase compared to yesterday, so that the price of the new-design and old-design Bahar-e Azadi coin increased by R3,000 and R2,000, respectively.

This report indicates: Also, the price of one gram of 17-carat and 18-carat gold was bought and sold for R37,500 and R40,000 in the open market, respectively, which compared to the previous day showed an increase of R600 for 17-carat gold and R800 for 18-carat gold.

Pakistan

'Powerful Explosion' at Egyptian Embassy

Radio Updates Bombing; 13 Dead

BK1911081295 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Islamabad, there have been two blasts in the Egyptian chancery building this morning, causing heavy damage. According to the first report, 13 persons were killed, including some Pakistanis, and a number of people injured. However, details are still awaited. Our representative, after visiting the site of the blast, reports that there was a minor blast in the reception section followed by a big explosion. The intensity of the explosion was so huge that it destroyed the entire front portion of the chancery and the rooftop of the main building caved in. Impact of the blasts were also felt in the surrounding buildings and windows of most of the adjacent buildings were broken. Emergency rescue work continues and the dead and injured are being shifted to hospitals.

Group Claims Responsibility

BK1911080295 Hong Kong AFP in English 0756 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Nov 19 (AFP) — More than a dozen people were killed when a powerful explosion ripped through the Egyptian Embassy here Sunday [19 November], Pakistani officials on the scene said.

Interior minister Nasirullah Babar said there were 13 dead and 59 injured.

"I believe there are over 12 dead," said the capital city's Assistant Commissioner Mohammad Ali, as ambulances, with sirens wailing, removed casualties from the shattered three-storey structure.

According to ambulance sources most of the casualties were Egyptian staff at the embassy located in the heavily-guarded diplomatic enclave.

Reports coming in from Egypt said a group called the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah had claimed responsibility for the blast.

"Several dozen kilograms of explosives were used," but it was not clear what type of device was used, a police official said.

The Egyptian ambassador was safe, an official said.

Some witnesses said there were two explosions, shortly after 11:00 am (0600 GMT), the second of a greater intensity.

A big crater, more than 12 feet (three metres) deep, at the main gate of the mission, indicated the point where the powerful bomb went off. It appeared that the device was planted inside the grounds of the embassy, police said.

Only severed limbs lay on some of the stretchers which removed blood-splattered victims, unconscious or obviously dead, with blood- stained bandages and their faces unrecognizable, witnesses said.

The courtyard of the building, the front portion of which was blown off, was strewn with a tangled mass of steel and concrete.

It was feared that some people might be buried under the debris left by the explosion, which occurred during working hours. Sunday is a working day in Pakistan.

"We heard the sound of the explosion many miles away," one of the bystanders said.

The Egyptian mission is located at the beginning of the sprawling diplomatic enclave, not far from the Japanese, Swiss, Indian, French, British and US embassies.

The explosion damaged the glass windows in neighbouring buildings, witnesses said.

The incident sparked security concern in the diplomatic community and one diplomat said "if this (blast) can happen at an embassy, then anything can happen here."

The private humanitarian Edhi Welfare Trust agency, which participated in the evacuation of casualties, said their ambulances had removed at least four bodies, in (?addition) to the injured.

2d Group Claims Responsibility

NC1911154195 Paris AFP in English
1533 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Nov 19 (AFP) — The International Justice Group became the second Islamic organisation to claim the bomb attack Sunday [19 November] on Egypt's embassy in Pakistan that killed 15 people, in a statement to an international news agency.

Caller Identifies Bombing Perpetrators

JN1911182495 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1804 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] In a telephone contact with our radio this evening, an anonymous caller said the attack on the Egyptian embassy in Islamabad was carried out by the group of Martyrs 'Isam al-Qimari and Ibrahim Salamah in retaliation against Pakistan's handing over of Egyptian mujahidin to Cairo. [passage omitted]

Officials Visit Site of Blasts

BK1911094595 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network
in Urdu 0900 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Islamabad, there have been two blasts at the Egyptian Embassy this morning, which caused heavy damage. According to the first report, 13 people were killed and 59 injured. Those killed included some Pakistanis. Full rescue work is in progress and the Army has been called in for assistance. A bomb disposal squad has also been pressed into service. Quoting Egyptian sources in Cairo, AFP reports that a group called al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah has claimed responsibility for the blasts. Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, Interior Minister Retired Major General Nasirullah Khan Babar, Education Minister Syed Khurshid Shah, and Minister of State for Justice Raza Rabbani visited the site of the blasts. Ahmad Sadiq, the prime minister's principal secretary, also visited the affected area and called on the Egyptian ambassador, who had a providential escape. He condemned this act of terrorism and assured the ambassador of full cooperation and necessary assistance. Later, in a brief chat with newsmen, the interior minister said the bomb blast probably was caused by a car bomb.

After visiting the site of the blast, Radio Pakistan's representative reports that the blast created a 12-feet deep crater near the main entrance to the Embassy. The visa section has been totally damaged. Of course, the residential portion of the embassy building did not suffer any great damage, but the roof of the main building of the embassy caved in. The blasts were heard from a long distance away and the windowpanes of most adjacent buildings were broken. Those who were injured have been moved to hospitals. The Egyptian counselor visited the services hospital and expressed deep anguish and sorrow over the blast.

Government Condemns 'Act of Terrorism'

BK1911140295 Islamabad PTV Television Network
in English 1300 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Two powerful blasts shattered the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad today, killing at least 15 persons and injuring 60. The explosions occurred in the compound of the Egyptian Embassy a little before 1100 [0600 GMT] this morning. The explosions shattered windows and doors of nearby buildings, causing a huge ball of fire. Clouds of dust and smoke rose to the sky, raining debris, according to an eyewitness. With the impact of the blast, a wide crater 10 feet deep and about 12 feet in diameter was made in the concrete entrance of the premises. The two blasts occurred around 1045 within a few seconds. The windowpanes of the Embassies of Japan, Indonesia, Switzerland, French Embassy and Grindley's Bank were also shattered, injuring many inside. The injured were taken to the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences [PIMS] and Federal Government Services Hospital, and Capital Hospital where a state of emergency was declared for extending the critically injured persons medical treatment. Ambulances of all local hospitals rushed to the scene to evacuate the dead and injured. Some of the injured were in a really bad condition and though the majority had injuries from flying debris and glass, some had severe burns.

President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari visited the demolished building of the Egyptian Embassy. He inquired about the tragic incident and expressed deep grief and sorrow over the loss of life and property. President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari described the incident as an act of terrorism against a brotherly Muslim country. The Egyptian ambassador in Islamabad, Mr. Nu'man Jalal, gave details of the incident. The building has been totally shattered.

Talking to PTV correspondent at the site of the explosion, the president said the Government of Pakistan is making all-out efforts to provide maximum assistance. The bodies of personnel of the Egyptian Embassy are being flown to Egypt. The Pakistanis who were killed in the incident are also being provided all-out assistance. The president later went to the PIMS Hospital and inquired about the health of those who were injured in the blast. Twenty-three people have been seriously injured, while 37 sustained minor injuries.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has also expressed her sympathy and condolence to the Egyptian president on today's incident at the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad. On behalf of the government and the people of Pakistan and on her own behalf, she extended her indignation and grief to the affected families. She described the incident as an act of violence, condemned it, and assured the Egyptian president that her government will take every possible measure to bring the perpetrators of this violence to justice.

Interior Minister Major General, retired, Nasirullah Khan Babar, who rushed to the place of incident soon afterward, told newsmen that the blast seemed to be car bomb. Security agencies have been ordered to investigate the incident.

The Government of Pakistan has strongly condemned this act of Terrorism. In a statement, Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali said:

[Begin Ali recording] I was deeply shocked and grieved by the tragedy at the Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt in the diplomatic enclave today. It has resulted in the loss of many valuable and innocent lives and serious and extensive damage to the Embassy building. According to the details available so far, it was a terrorist act apparently perpetrated by a suicide bomber who may have blasted his way through the gate and set off a high explosive device in a pickup van. The Government of Pakistan condemns this act of terrorism. It has conveyed to the Government of Egypt its deep regrets about the loss of life and property and has pledged that no effort would be spared to trace the perpetrators and bring them to justice. On behalf of the government I also offer my condolences to the bereaved families of the innocent Pakistanis who have lost their lives in this dastardly attack. We shall do all we can to help them in this tragic situation. [end recording]

According to AFP, the armed Islamic militant group al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah has claimed responsibility for the bombing of the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad. A man made the claim in a telephone call to the news agency in Cairo today.

Minister Inspects Site of Blast

BK1911161095 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In Islamabad, there were two bomb blasts in the Egyptian chancery building this morning, which caused heavy damage. According to reports, 14 persons were killed and 59 injured in the blasts. Among those killed were five Pakistanis. The Army bomb disposal squad, which was called upon to assist the relief operation, has completed its work and removed the debris to pull out the dead bodies.

In a statement in the Senate this evening, Interior Minister retired Major General Nasirullah Khan Babar said that among the 14 killed were five Egyptians, seven [figure as heard] Pakistanis, an Afghan citizen, and one other unidentified person. He said that now 30 people are still receiving treatment in the hospitals and that the others been discharged following treatment. He said a group in Egypt has claimed the responsibility for the blast. Though the responsibility for security rests with Pakistan, he expressed his regret that the embassy did not give any indication of a possible threat. He said in the past, whenever the embassy identified a person or group, the government took immediate action by taking the suspected persons into custody and expelling them from the country. Nasirullah Khan Babar said an inquiry has been ordered into the incident and certain evidence, including the engine number of the double cabin vehicle, have been obtained. He hopes the persons involved in the incident will soon be caught. He said the vehicle that caused the blast was already on the Embassy compound when it exploded and that it is possible that the occupants of the vehicle were familiar and that is why they were allowed to enter the compound. He said the bomb blast took place inside the Embassy compound and the material used in the blast is not available in Pakistan.

Some federal ministers, including Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali and Interior Minister retired Major General Nasirullah Khan Babar inspected the site of the blast. They condemned this act of terrorism and assured total support and necessary assistance to the Egyptian ambassador. [passage omitted]

Correspondent Describes Embassy Attack

BK2011115095 (Internet) PAKISTAN NEWS SERVICE in English 20 Nov 95

[By Javed Iqbal]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad (Pakistan News Service) 20 Nov — Yesterday at 10:47 PST [Pakistan Standard Time] [0547 GMT] two bomb blasts were heard in my office here at 7th Road Satellite Town, Rawalpindi. By 14:00 hours we had reports that Egyptian Embassy near Parliament, Presidency has been blown out. Some 16 are dead including 1 Afghani, 7 Pakistanis and rest are Egyptians. 60 people are injured. A Datsun reached the Embassy gate and first bomb blew the gateaway. The car moved in and second powerful one blew the whole visa office.

Egyptian Ambassador is safe since he rushed to his residence immediately after the first explosion.

There had been reports being printed in the press for the past one month that massive powerful explosions are expected in Islamabad and in Punjab in near future and security is being beafed up. Govt [government] has offered reconstruction of Embassy and arranged special plane for transportation of Egyptians to Cairo. Egyptians have been offered alternative residence and Embassy premises by the Foreign Office. So far three different groups have made claims include al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah in Cairo, the first one to make claim. President Husni Mubarak of Egypt has also condemned the attack. Pakistani President, PM [prime minister] and many Ministers rushed to the site. Interior Minister Nasirullah Babar has accepted the responsibility for insufficient security.

Leghari, Bhutto Write to Egypt's Mubarak on Attack

BK1911144795 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] In Islamabad, there were two bomb blasts in the Egyptian chancery building this morning causing heavy damage. According to reports, 14 persons, including some Pakistanis, were killed and 60 others injured. Army bomb disposal squad, which was called on to assist the relief operation, has completed its work and removed the debris to find out any dead bodies.

The Government of Pakistan has condemned this act of terrorism and conveyed to the Government of Egypt its deep regret on the loss of life and property. Pakistan has pledged that no effort will be spared to trace the perpetrators and bring them to justice. The president Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, who visited the site, described the bomb blast at the Egyptian chancery as an act of terrorism and condemned it. Talking to newsmen, the president said the Pakistan Government is making arrangements to provide alternate accommodation to the Egyptian diplomats and would send the bodies of the Egyptians killed in the incident to their country by a special plane. Earlier, talking to the Egyptian ambassador, the president expressed his grief and sorrow over the tragic incident and assured him that Pakistan will take all steps for their rescue and relief operation. The ambassador briefed the president about the details of loss of life and property. The president visited the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences in Islamabad and inquired about the health of those injured in the incident.

In their messages, the president and the prime minister, to the Egyptian president expressed their profound sense of grief and agony over the tragic incident. President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari in his message to the Egyptian president conveyed to the Egyptian Government and the affected families his deepest sympathies and condolences at the terrible bomb blast.

The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, in her message to the Egyptian president, Husni Mubarak, expressed her deep indignation and grief over the incident causing numerous casualties both of the Egyptians and Pakistanis. The prime minister on behalf of the government and people of Pakistan and on her own behalf extended the Government of Egypt and the affected families her deepest sympathies and condolences. [passage omitted]

Committee Said To Investigate Egyptian Embassy Blast

BK2011014595 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0100 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Government of Pakistan has set up a high-level interministerial committee to investigate yesterday's blast at the Egyptian Embassy building. The committee will submit its report to the government in a week. A press note issued by the Interior Ministry in Islamabad last night said that police have opened a case on this incident.

Meanwhile, Egyptian Counselor Hisham, who was injured in the blast, died at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences last night, thereby increasing the death toll to 15.

As a gesture of goodwill, the prime minister has offered compensation for the damage and the Pakistani Government will bear all costs of repairing the Egyptian Embassy.

President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari spoke by telephone with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak yesterday evening and expressed his heartfelt grief and sorrow over the tragic incident. President Mubarak thanked the Pakistani president for taking a personal interest and the Government of Pakistan for providing timely assistance following the bomb blast at the embassy.

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, in a statement in Cairo, has condemned every kind of terrorism and has emphasized international cooperation to counter terrorism. The Egyptian Government has rushed a delegation to Pakistan to assess the damages.

Three Suspects Said Held for Egyptian Embassy Bombs

BK2011065995 Hong Kong AFP in English 0650 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD, Nov 20 (AFP) — Police have detained two Egyptians and a Jordanian over the massive bomb blast at the Egyptian embassy on Sunday [19 November] that killed 16 people and injured 60, official sources said Monday.

The trio are said to be students at the Islamic University in Islamabad set up in the 1980s with backing from Islamic countries, mainly Saudi Arabia and other Gulf sheikhdoms.

The sources did not identify the youths.

But the detentions came after a high-level inquiry team set up by the government started work into the suspected car bomb blast. A five-member team of Egyptian anti-terrorist experts inspected the blast site after arriving from Cairo late Sunday.

Said Possibly Egyptians From Afghanistan

BK2011123695 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 20 Nov 95 p 10

[Report by Ismail Khan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Peshawar: Senior investigators in Peshawar believe the suicide bombing at the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad might have been carried out by a group of Egyptians camped in the eastern Afghanistan province of Kunar.

"We had information that the group planned to carry out subversion and the information was passed on to relevant quarters," an official said. He disclosed the 45-man group comprising nationals from Egypt, Algeria, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia had planned to bomb some installations a month ago but the agencies were not able to identify the intended target.

The group consist of Arabs who fled to Afghanistan following a crack down by Pakistani agencies against Arabs, particularly those from Egypt, Algeria and Tunisia, in April 1993.

These Arabs fought in the Afghan jihad but lived on illegally after the collapse of Soviet backed communist regime in Kabul.

Another group of 30 to 40 Arabs have taken refuge in Jalalabad, capital of Nangrahar province of Afghanistan. A considerably large group of 130 to 140 Arabs, mostly of African origin and living along with their families at Jaillozai refuge camp near Peshawar, the official said, were also being put under surveillance. A list of those Arabs, the official added, was provided to the government. "Let's see what the government does to them. We've to keep a tab on them."

The official said the Islamabad police would also have to keep a eye on expatriate Islamists at the International Islamic University. Islamabad which in his view was the hot-bed of religious extremists. We will look at it (the incident) from our side. They (federal agencies) will look at from theirs," the official said.

Nuclear Plant Construction Said To Hit 'Milestone'

BK1811091995 Islamabad THE NATION in English 18 Nov 95 p 3

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A significant construction milestone at 300MW Chashma Nuclear Power Plant (CHASNUPP) will be achieved on November 21 when 184 ton heavy tori spherical dome of the containment building for housing main nuclear reactor will be placed in position. the event follows extensive conactivity consuming about 100,000 cubic meters of concrete and 20,000 tons of steel after first concrete pour on August 1, 1993. The progress work ins in accordance with the schedule drawn at the start of the project.

The containment building is a prestressed cylindrical concrete structure of 36 meters wide, 60 meter high and lined with 6 mm steel plate. It is the major building in the power plant housing main nuclear reactor and allied equipment. After placing the dome of this building, the project is considered to be half-way through the implementation and marks the start and subsequent intensification of the installation phase. CHASNUPP is scheduled to be connected to the national grid on October 25, 1998.

The dome placement ceremony at CHASNUPP site will be graced by Nawab Yousaf Talpu, Federal Minister for Food and Agriculture and Jiang Xinxiong, President of China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC).

Hataf II Missile Said To Be Tested Next Year

BK2011015395 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 19 Nov 95 pp 1, 7

[Report by Mohammad Saleh Zafir]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to reliable defense sources surface to surface missile "Hataf II" will be tested next year. Indigenous technology and resources have been used in the preparation of these missiles. Pakistan has decided to speed up its missile in view of India's test of its "Trishul" missiles this month, which was India's 29th missile test. Previously India had tested "Prithvi", "Agni" and "Naag" missiles. Most of these missiles had failed to reach their target. Even those tests which India claims to be successful have not been testified by the independent scientific sources. Meanwhile India has announced its program to build the latest light weight fighter jets which will be available for flight by next year and will be included in the Indian Air Force after about ten years. In its technology and design This LCA [Light Combat Aircraft] airplane can be as good as Mirage 2000 or F-16. In order to compete with the Indian airplane manufacturing Pakistan has started working on a program for building the most modern airplanes with the cooperation of China. JANG has come to know that "Hataf II" missile will have a range of 275 kilometres and will be able to target in a specified diameter. This will make it a multi purpose weapon. Various laboratories of the country are working day and night for preparing this missile. Hataf I which was handed over to the army during the first tenure of Benazir Bhutto's premiership has a range of 80 kilometres. It is believed that after the preparation of Hataf II, improvement will be brought in the capacity and rang of Hataf I also.

Bhutto Cites Improvements in Deficit, Economy

BK1811145595 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 18 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister says her government has brought about improvements in the macroeconomic structure of the country to fight the problems of dearness, unemployment, and population explosion.

Speaking at the foundation stone laying ceremony of the OPF [Overseas Pakistanis Foundation] Language Institute at Naudero this afternoon, Ms. Benazir Bhutto said positive results of the government's efforts have started showing up. The budget deficit, which was 8 percent a year ago, has come down to 5.5 percent. Next year it will be brought down to 5 percent. Local borrowing of the government has been reduced to 30 billion rupees from 60 billion rupees of the preceding year; and government has repaid foreign loan of $200 million. She said it is for the first time that attention has been given to the repayment of foreign debt. She said with the privatization of Kot Addu power plant, we shall be able to repay another $700 million of foreign debts which have by now accumulated to $30 billion. She said it was her desire that we should live like a self-sufficient and self-respecting nation without borrowing from others.

About inflation, she said the previous government had taken the figure from 5.5 percent to 11.5 percent. However her government, she said, is doing its best to contain inflation. About unemployment, she said the Social Action Program is being implemented at a cost of 4.5 billion rupees. Under this program, schools and basic health units are being opened and water supply and sewerage schemes are being implemented. These projects will provide employment and also ensure jobs after completion. The prime minister said attention is being given to provide technical training to youth because the age of administrative economy is over, in which employment was ensured in government jobs only.

The prime minister expressed the determination to take the country in the next century according to the wishes of the father of the nation. However, to ensure overall development the lawlessness, sectarianism, and terrorism is to be controlled. The prime minister said dictatorial regimes have damaged the country in every sphere of life and powers opposed to democracy are still out to harm democratic dispensation. She hoped that the people will foil all designs to derail democracy. About the institute, she said initially it will impart education in English and Arabic and later the scope will be enlarged. Earlier, the prime minister unveiled a plaque marking the foundation stone laying of the institute.

Sri Lanka

Government Reportedly Offers Amnesty to LTTE

BK1911041695 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 18 Nov 95

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Operation Riviresa [sunshine] troops were digging in before a final assault on the Tiger stronghold of Jaffna yesterday as Sri Lanka Air Force helicopters dropped leaflets offering amnesty to Tigers who surrender to security forces.

Defence sources in Colombo said the leaflets printed in Tamil and dropped over the northern Jaffna peninsula urged Tiger cadres to surrender to the army without getting killed when soldiers take on Jaffna.

The message has also been broadcast over the SLBC's [Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation] Yapa Patuna service operating from Palaly.

The army's 51st Division and the 52nd Division are consolidating their defences less than one kilometre from the Jaffna city limits. Troops were building bunkers and trenches and taking all precautions to ensure that no infiltration takes place.

Military spokesman Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe said the army is now at the "gates of Jaffna", adding that the troops expected the Tigers to put up a last ditch battle for their bastion. This is expected to be the bloodiest phase of the war.

Troops operating on one flank were nearly 700 metres from Thirunaveli and the other, one kilometre north of Kalviyangadu. Both villages border the city limits.

Defence sources view the eventual capture of Jaffna as a "major psychological victory" for the troops and "a great blow to the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]". [passage omitted]

Troops have captured a number of strategic towns and killed over 1,400 terrorists during the month-long offensive. The army has lost 322 men in the offensive so far.

Minister Comments on 'Different Kind' of Operation

BK1911055995 Hong Kong AFP in English 0549 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, Nov 19 (AFP) — The Sri Lankan military is confident of capturing the Tamil rebel stronghold of Jaffna but expects the separatist war to drag on, a minister said in remarks published Sunday [19 November].

Deputy Defence Minister Anuruddha Ratwatte told The Island newspaper that the thousands of soldiers poised to seize Jaffna town would then try to win over the island's minority Tamil community.

"The taking of Jaffna will not mark the end of the ongoing military onslaught against the LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam)," said Ratwatte, who is leading the month-old military drive against the Tamil Tigers.

He said the army, now within a kilometer (0.6 miles) of Jaffna town, was confident of taking the rebel citadel.

"Then we will consolidate our power in Jaffna town and launch an operation of a different kind," said Ratwatte, a former colonel in the Sri Lanka army who is a close relative of President Chandrika Kumaratunga.

He said after capturing Jaffna, "the military will launch a programme to win the hearts and minds of (Tamil) people.

"It won't be difficult," he added. "Our boys are disciplined. The operation to crush the LTTE will continue."

A senior army officer echoed the minister's sentiments on Saturday.

"We will be in Jaffna town in a few days," the state-run television quoted Major General Rohan Daluwatte as telling the soldiers in the northern peninsula of Jaffna, which the LTTE had controlled since 1990.

Sri Lanka mounted its biggest military offensive since 1987 on October 17 to wrest the region from the Tigers.

Nearly 330 soldiers and 1,400 guerrillas have died in heavy fighting so far. The LTTE claims it has slowed the army advance on the gates of Jaffna.

Ratwatte had said earlier that the Sri Lankan troops, backed by the air force and artillery, could capture Jaffna in two days but were going slow so as not to cause civilian casualties.

Ratwatte's latest comments came a day after the LTTE downed a fourth Sri Lankan air force plane and two days after Colombo announced an amnesty to surrendering Tamil Tiger guerrillas.

Daily Reports on Government Move Towards Jaffna

BK1711125295 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 17 Nov 95

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Operation Riviresa [sunshine] enters its second month today as two divisions of troops consolidate their positions less than one kilometre from the Jaffna city limits before a final assault on the Tiger stronghold.

Military spokesman Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe said the army is now at the "gates of Jaffna", adding that the troops expected the Tigers to put up a last ditch battle for their bastion.

"We expect more fighting, more mines and more booby traps. We expect the worst, but we are prepared for anything and any number of their fighters as we go into Jaffna," Brigadier Munasinghe told the weekly press briefing.

He said troops operating on one flank were nearly 700 metres from Thirunaveli and the other, one kilometre north of Kalviyangadu. Both villages border the city limits.

The Brigadier predicted that the eventual capture of Jaffna will be a "major psychological victory" for the troops and "a great blow to the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]". A large number of Tigers were already on the run, he added.

"This is in sharp contrast to their earlier rhetoric — they said troops would not be able move an inch forward from Palaly. Now we have gone miles".

Tigers were reported to be looting the houses left behind by civilians and destroying civilian property. The military spokesman described this as an attempt to blame the security forces for such acts in order to gain sympathy.

Operation Riviresa began on October 17 when thousands of heavily armed infantrymen backed by air cover, armour and artillery broke out of the Forward Defended Localities (FDLs) of the Palaly military complex in the Jaffna peninsula and moved southwards under the command of Overall Operations Commander in the North, Major General Rohan Daluwatte, assisted by Major General Srilal Weerasooriya.

Troops have captured a number of strategic towns and killed over 1,400 rebels during the month-long offensive, one of the most successful military campaigns undertaken since 1983 when the conflict escalated. The army has lost 322 men in the operation so far.

Soldiers have captured two more LTTE training camps at Kopay. The 'Bosmo' camp is believed to have been used by the LTTE intelligence wing. The other camp named Dochchan was used as a military training facility. Soldiers also recovered ration packs used by Tigers, containing foods such as apples, grapes and cheese.

They also captured the office of the 'Tamil Eelam Economic Development Organisation' at Kondavil.

Among the other strategic places captured by the army are Neerveli where an underground hospital cum command post was located and Urumpirai, where a large LTTE training camp was located. They also captured Achchuveli, Navakkeri, Achchelu, Puttur and Urelu.

Two divisions are involved in the offensive. The 52nd division is commanded by Brigadier P.A. Karunatilake and assisted by Brigadier Anton Wijendra. The 51st division is commanded by Brigadier Neil Dias and assisted by Brigadier Sarath Fonseka.

Meanwhile security forces in Colombo have been placed on maximum alert during the LTTE's Maha Veera Varam (Heroes Week) which begins today and ends on November 26, Prabhakaran's birthday.

Reports reaching Colombo from the North said the main Heroes Week celebrations will be held in the eastern Batticaloa district this year as the Tigers are unable to have it in Jaffna due to the current offensive.

Meanwhile, the government continues send adequate quantities of food for the benefit of displaced persons and residents of LTTE- controlled areas. Additional Secretary to the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs S.M.J. Senaratne said 10,000 metric tonnes of foodstuffs will be sent this month alone.

The vessel Habarana is taking 1,500 mt [metric tons] of flour in addition to other items including medicine. The Maho unloading at Point Pedro took 620,000 litres of kerosene among other items, he said.

Military Spokesman Says Troops Near Jaffna Center

BK1911104895 Hong Kong AFP in English
1036 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Nov 19 (AFP) — Sri Lankan troops on Sunday [19 November] broke into the Tamil rebel bastion of Jaffna, one month after mounting the island's biggest military campaign since 1987, military and Tamil sources said.

Thousands of soldiers backed by tanks and artillery entered Nallur, located within the Jaffna city limits, only hours after resuming their final assault on the rebel stronghold at dawn, military officials said.

A military spokesman said troops had taken Nallur's main Hindu temple after heavy fighting and were 2.5 kilometers (1.5 miles) from the Jaffna city centre.

Several soldiers were wounded in land mine explosions while storming Nallur, the spokesman said.

"If the (Nallur) temple has been taken, it means the Sri Lankan army is in Jaffna," a Tamil official here said.

Nallur has been a stronghold of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), whose protracted campaign for a Tamil homeland in Sri Lanka's north-east has left more than 50,000 people dead.

It is the first time the Sri Lankan army has entered Jaffna city limits since 1990.

Government Troops Reportedly Enter Jaffna City

BK1911103395 Hong Kong AFP in English
1025 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Nov 19 (AFP) — Sri Lankan troops Sunday [19 November] broke into the Tamil rebel bastion of Jaffna, a month after launching the island's biggest military campaign since 1987, military and Tamil sources said.

Thousands of soldiers backed by tanks and artillery entered Nallur, located within the Jaffna city limits, hours after resuming their final assault on the rebel stronghold at dawn, military officials said.

Military Denies Entrance Into Jaffna

BK1911140895 Hong Kong AFP in English
1358 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Nov 19 (AFP) — The Sri Lankan military Sunday [19 November] denied storming the Tamil rebel stronghold of Jaffna, hours after claiming that it entered the town for the first time in five years.

Military spokesman Sarath Munasinghe retracted earlier claims of breaking into Jaffna town, the capital of a sprawling de facto state the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) has maintained in the island's north since 1990.

"The wrong report originated from the northern Jaffna peninsula and was mistakenly picked-up by the military," he said.

"The troops are still outside the (Jaffna) city limits," he added.

Thousands of troops resumed their final assault on Jaffna at dawn Sunday after a two-day lull and met with heavy resistance from the LTTE, leaving at least 12 soldiers and 80 guerrillas dead, he said.

Sri Lanka mounted its biggest military drive on October 17 to wrest Jaffna from the LTTE.

Troops Reportedly 'Only 800 Meters' From Jaffna

BK1911113095 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English
1045 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tirunelveli and Nallur fell to the government troops. Troops of Operation Riviresa [sunshine], who commenced the second stage of the thrust on the Jaffna Town early this morning, have been victorious in capturing Tirunelveli and Nallur a short while ago. Our special correspondent reported that the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists initially showed resistance to the advancing troops this morning, but the soldiers repulsed the attacks and killed several of the LTTE cadres.

The second stage of the thrust on Jaffna Town started from Kopai. The terrorists have planted pressure mines on the route of the advancing troops. Some soldiers were injured by the land mines but their advance continued without interruption. The Air Force giving cover to the troops have destroyed several terrorists camps today. The terrorists unable to resist any further have retreated. This has been confirmed by the LTTE radio.

A senior military commander in Jaffna said that the troops were only 800 meters away from the Jaffna Town and they would capture the city very soon. He also said that the troops were consolidating the areas captured so far. The troops were successful in advancing to Nallur, protecting the Nallur Kandasamy Kovil [Hindu temple]. The temple area is now under the control of the government troops.

Military sources said that the LTTE, fighting a losing battle, were destroying public and private properties while they retreated. Our special correspondent said that the civilians living in camps near Palali had told the government troops that they would never forgive the LTTE terrorists for destroying the public and private properties. More Jaffna civilians arrive in Vavuniya. Government Agent of Vavuniya K. Ganesh said that the number of civilians leaving the peninsula in an attempt to escape from the atrocities of the LTTE was on the increase. The government agent told the SLBC's Vani Service that over 230 families had already arrived in Vavuniya. He said a welfare center has been opened in the Vavuniya railway station to accommodate the ever increasing Tamil refugees. The cooperative societies are to supply dry rations and other essential items. Government Agent Ganesh further said that refugees who are unable to get accommodation from their relatives or friends in Vavuniya would be given shelter at the Chittambarpuram Welfare Center.

Tamil civilians in areas liberated from the LTTE had expressed confidence that the government's political proposals would help resolve the ethnic conflict. Our special correspondent reports that the majority of the civilians living between Palali and Jaffna had strongly condemned the LTTE's campaign of terror. Refugees at the camp on the Achchuveli Church premises said that they only desire a quick end to the fighting and the right to live peacefully. A retired government servant refuted the LTTE's claim to be the liberators of the Tamil people.

Forces Said To Enter Jaffna, Advance Toward Center

BK2011054595 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English
0509 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, 20 Nov (LANKAPUVATH) — Sri Lanka's security forces entered Jaffna City at 0700 hrs (local time) this morning.

Senior military sources told LANKAPUVATH that the 53rd division of the elite reserve strike force comprising crack commandos, the special forces brigade, rapid deployment force and the special air mobile troops, took over from troops of operation "Riviresa" (sunshine), as they captured the strategic town of Nallur and entered the Jaffna City municipal limits.

The sources said the Nallur Kovil (temple) was intact.

They said the elite special reserve force had taken over and were moving to the Jaffna City centre.

'Sources' Update Fighting, Casualties

BK2011104095 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0956 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, Nov 20 (LANKAPUVATH): Sri Lanka's security forces entered Jaffna city stronghold of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] at 0700 hours (local time), this morning.

Senior military sources told LANKAPUVATH that the 53rd division of the elite Reserve Strike Force comprising crack commandos, the Special Forces Brigade led by Brigadier Janaka Perera, Rapid Deployment Force and the Special Air Mobile Troops, took over from troops of Operation 'Riviresa' (Sunshine), as they captured the strategic town of Nallur and entered the Jaffna city municipal limits.

The sources said the Nallur Kovil (Temple) was intact. They said the elite Special Reserve Force had taken over and were moving to the Jaffna city centre. Latest battlefield reports received this evening state that the Reserve Strike Force was moving forward despite heavy enemy resistance including a large number of booby-trapped buildings.

Meanwhile, a press release issued by the operational headquarters of the Ministry of Defence said troops captured Thirunelvely East junction by 1530 hours Sunday [19 November] amidst heavy enemy resistance. But the troops, supported by armour, artillery and air cover, fought back valiantly and forced the Tigers to flee the area. Likely terrorist concentrations in the area were engaged, causing heavy casualties to the Tigers.

The fleeing terrorists continued to destroy public property and houses, using explosives and booby traps. By late afternoon, the security forces captured the Thirunelvely East-Kokuvil East road. Terrorist bodies, weapons and other equipment were seen left behind in bunkers. In the afternoon battle, troops lost 12 soldiers killed in action and 21 injured. A minimum of 65 terrorists were also killed in addition to their losses in air and artillery attacks. The operation commenced at first light Monday further southwards and Nallur was captured by 0700 hours.

LTTE Reportedly Shoots Down Air Force Aircraft

BK1811113095 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 18 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A Sri Lanka aircraft, Y-8 Air Force aircraft, was shot down off the northern Palaly military complex by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists this morning. The aircraft took off from Ratmalana at 0700 [0130 GMT] and was shot down about one hour later over the sea north of Palaly. The Y-8, which was a cargo plane, had a crew of six airmen.

Our special correspondent reports that three of the crew were admitted to the Palaly hospital where two of them succumbed to their injuries. An Air Force officer at Palaly told our correspondent that the attack was carried out by Sea Tigers in a flotilla of 15 boats. The pilot had reportedly made a valiant attempt to ward off the attack. The Y-8 crashed into the ocean some two kilometers off the Palaly airstrip. The Air Force immediately launched an operation to rescue the crew and attack the Sea Tiger fleet.

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